



3 July 2026

The Hon. Jihad Dib, MP
Minister for Emergency Services
Via email: office@Dib.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Presumptive Recognition of Motor Neurone Disease for Firefighters

I write on behalf of the Fire Brigade Employees' Union to seek the NSW Government's support for the inclusion of Motor Neurone Disease (MND), including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), within the NSW presumptive workers' compensation framework for firefighters.

The FBEU has worked constructively with the NSW Government to secure significant improvements to presumptive cancer legislation, ensuring firefighters diagnosed with occupational cancers receive fair recognition and access to compensation. As scientific evidence of firefighters' occupational risks continues to develop, it is important that these protections evolve accordingly.

Emerging international research indicates firefighters face an elevated risk of developing MND, including ALS, with many of the same occupational exposures linked to firefighter cancers also associated with these diseases. Sadly, the FBEU is aware of members who have been diagnosed with, and who have lost their lives to, MND.

The Union welcomes the NSW Government's recent decision to make MND a notifiable condition and establish a statewide registry recording diagnoses, including patients' occupations. This is an important step towards strengthening the evidence base for occupational disease, consistent with the approach that informed presumptive cancer protections for firefighters.

Given the growing scientific evidence and the serious consequences of this disease, we urge the NSW Government to begin the work necessary to include MND and ALS within the firefighter presumptive workers' compensation framework. Where evidence demonstrates firefighters are disproportionately affected by occupational disease, the workers' compensation scheme should provide timely recognition and support.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Government as this evidence continues to develop and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this important issue with you.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary