

WHAT IS THE RESPECT, PROTECT, VALUE YOUR FIREFIGHTERS CAMPAIGN?

RESPECT

The firefighter awards, which cover our work terms and safety rules, expired on February 25, 2024. However, we haven't received any offer or guidelines from the Minns Government to begin negotiations.

We provided our Log of Claims to our employer last year, but negotiations haven't been able to progress or even really commence without any position from the Government or FRNSW.

Firefighters deserve fair negotiations and better pay. We're asking for a 20% increase over 3 years.

PROTECT

We might look protected, but even our uniforms can't fully protect us from the toxins we are exposed to in our work.

A firefighter risk of cancer is 3-5 times greater than the general population. Presumptive cancer laws means that firefighters don't have to prove that firefighting is the cause of our cancer as this link has already been scientifically established. This makes it easier and speedier to access workers compensation when we get sick from our job.

Current NSW presumptive legislation provides covers some cancers but not all. These laws need to be updated to properly cover NSW firefighters. This has already occurred in other jurisdictions including federal firefighters who work at airports.

Members of the community can support us by visiting www.nswfirefighters.com.au and send a message to the Minister and your local MP.

VALUE

Firefighter wages and conditions stagnated under the previous Government who placed a legislated wages cap restricting our wage increases to no more than 2% per year for 10 years including a 0.3% increase 2021.

This means our wages and conditions have fallen well behind the cost of living increases the whole community is experiencing as we continue to attempt to live and work in the most expensive State in Australia.

Firefighters are highly trained and skilled and do so much more than just fight fires. We are there for protecting the community of NSW during floods, storms and other natural disasters. We provide rescue services including:

- Urban Search and Rescue.
- Technical Rope Rescue.
- Confined Space Rescue.
- Motor Vehicle Accident Rescue.
- Rescue from Transport including trains, planes, and ships.
- Industrial Rescue.
- Domestic Rescue.
- Swift Water Rescue.
- Alpine Rescue
- HAZMAT rescue; and
- Animal Rescue.

We manage hazardous material incidents including chemical, biological and radiological incidents along with investigating fire cause and origin and highly technical incident management.

We are asking for our pay and conditions to reflect the value of the full range of our skills, qualifications and essential work that we do.

