



17 January 2023

Mr. Chris Minns, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: leader.opposition@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Re: Firefighters on the Shared Equity Scheme

The Fire Brigade Employees Union (**FBEU**) is writing to you on behalf of NSW professional Firefighters (both permanent and retained), employed by Fire and Rescue NSW (**FRNSW**), who have been excluded as key workers in the NSW Shared Equity Scheme 2022, to go into effect as of 23 January 2023.

This scheme has been designed to assist key workers across various industries to seek government funded assistance in purchasing a home including Police, Paramedics, Teachers, early childhood educators, etc. However firefighters are a glaring omission to the scheme.

Clause 2.2(e)(iii) of the *First Home Owner Grant and Shared Equity Act 2000* allows additional key workers to be included in the scheme. We are therefore writing to you on behalf of the approximately 6500 professional firefighters represented by the FBEU to seek your commitment to including professional firefighters as key workers eligible for this scheme.

Firefighters have been on the forefront of significant disasters in recent years, including the 2019 bushfires, 2022 floods and worked on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. They continue to be a key government workforce that promotes the safety and wellbeing of the NSW Community and rightfully belong on this list as a key worker.

As this scheme is to go into effect on 23 January, your urgent reply is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Leighton Drury
State Secretary