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## **MEDIA RELEASE – Presumptive Legislation**

The Western Australian Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association (WAVFRSA) is the peak body representing WA's 2,400+ Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) members – serving their communities in 104 locations across the length and breadth of the State.

The Association has been in discussions with the current government regarding presumptive legislation for volunteer fire and rescue service members who contract one of the 12 prescribed types of cancer since 2011 and we have been working with both DFES and the government since the announcement of the proposed legislation by the then Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Troy Buswell in October 2012.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Joe Francis MLA, introduced the Firefighters and Emergency Volunteers Legislation Amendment (Compensation) Bill 2016 in the Legislative Assembly for its first and second readings. Association Executive Officer Jodie Neuzerling, along with former Executive Officer Max Osborn AFSM, was invited to attend this historic occasion to represent the members of the VFRS.

It has been a lengthy and complicated process and we are extremely pleased that this Legislation – possibly the most important for our members tabled in the last 60 years – is now in its final stages of being adopted.

This Bill is a major step forward for supporting members of the VFRS who contract one of the prescribed cancers and we are urging all MP's to pass the Bill in its current format.

The WAVFRSA is extremely mindful of the hard work undertaken by the members of DFES' Legislation and Legal team, the State Solicitors, Minister's Office and Parliamentary staff in bringing this Legislation to its current status.

We look forward to the third reading being held in Parliament and to the Bill's passing into law as soon as possible.

All enquiries with regards to this media release should be directed to the Association office on 08 9377-8900.

Paul du Boulay  
Association President

**As Volunteer Firefighters we do **WHAT** we can, **WHEN** we can, **WHERE** we can and to the **VERY BEST** of our **ABILITY****