



WORD BACK

No.18/2018

23 July 2018

A B C D Day Retained

New Noarlunga Station

I'm pleased to advise reaffirmation by MFS management last week of the new station build for Noarlunga. Thank goodness because it's well overdue. The Union was assured that the budget is approved and the consultative committee advising on station design will be convened in the near future to get on with the job.

PFAS Blood Testing



Members who may have been exposed historically to firefighting foam containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are encouraged to participate in the current blood testing initiative.

Chemicals belonging to the PFAS group are today being associated with illnesses including cancers among firefighters and the public.

The UFU is advised that if you participate, your results will be kept confidential and will be sent to you direct. Once you have received them you will receive a follow up call from a doctor from the program to explain and discuss the results.

Many members have said they thought it is too late to participate because the initial survey was due back by 30 March 2018, however the MFS have said they will still welcome your participation.

All current and retired members are encouraged to take part now by calling either Ms Clara Cipriani at the MFS on 08 82043738 or by registering with us at the UFU on 83527211 and we will forward on your details. Please don't delay if you have had exposure.

Mid Term Pay Increase Application Lodged

The application to vary the *South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Enterprise Agreement 2017* to incorporate the mid-term pay increase of 2% was lodged on 16 July 2018 with the SA Employment Tribunal. The Union anticipates a hearing date for the matter shortly and members will be kept informed.

Senior Firefighter Level 1 Development Update

As reported in previous Word Backs, discussions took place with members of the Enterprise Bargaining Team including the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer, the United Firefighters Union and the Learning and Development team in relation to how the Senior Firefighter Level 1 Program could be delivered in accordance with the EA and how time will be recorded.

With respect to the conduct of the assessment component (approximate duration of 1.5 hours) for the Senior Firefighter Level 1 program with ASC Training and Development (ASC), it was agreed that the following options are available:

- ASC scheduled time at the Angle Park Training Centre on a designated date;
- Video the assessment on station and forward to ASC as soon as possible; or
- Group assessments at selected stations (on shift) with times and venues to be advised.

Those affected would have received correspondence from the MFS advising of these options and associated information in relation to the recording of time/leave if you opt to complete the assessment 'off shift, off station' in your own time. The Union confirms the agreement with the MFS that members should choose the option which is most convenient to you.

Wet Weather Gear

The latest on the acquisition of rainwear is that, due to the cost involved, we are told the purchase must go through lengthy government procurement procedures. Apparently, this means that firefighters will keep wearing plastic bags as rain protection, at RCRs and other exposed deployments, likely for another year. Clearly this is *more than* unacceptable, and we have sought that the MFS seek ways for the process to be expedited.

Meanwhile your pictures in the current elegant attire you use as protection when working in the rain, can be sent to info@ufusa.com.au for our photo album. A big thank you to those who have already sent in some rather imaginative pics.

Retention Leave – Important Reminder

Further to our previous information on retention leave (See WordBack No 15), those impacted are reminded that if you are considering a payout of your 2017/2018 Retention Leave balance, you **must** do so between July 1st and 31st August 2018. Contact the UFU Office on 83527211 if any doubt. Time marches quickly on.

Senior Firefighter Level 2 (SFFQ)

Discussions are ongoing (and likely to be for some time) with a report back from the working party due at the forthcoming meeting of the State Council. The matter is a long way from reaching any decisions about changes and you will, of course, be involved in determining any such decisions. Members are welcome to have input by contacting UFU representatives on our UFU Working Party **Rhys Lauritsen, Brad Robertson, Chris Barry, Michael Riggs, Jesse Virgo and Tim Maitland.**

UFU State Council – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26 July 2018 at the UFU.

In solidarity

Max Adlam

UFU Secretary