



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Disability
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety
Minister for Government Services and Procurement
Minister for Urban Renewal
Member for Kurrajong

Mr David Cains
Branch Manager – Workers' Compensation Policy
Department of Jobs and Small Business
WorkersCompensationPolicy@jobs.gov.au

Dear Mr Cains

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2019 about the review of the firefighter provisions of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (the SRC Act).

The Australian Capital Territory is proud to be known as Australia's bush capital and protecting our residents, communities, businesses and natural environment is of great importance. ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) and the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) are vital agencies within the overarching ACT Emergency Services Agency.

The ACT Government employs approximately 336 fire and rescue officers and engages nearly 400 volunteer firefighters. Volunteers respond to bush and grass fires, and conduct hazard reduction burning to mitigate the fire threat to the ACT.


We believe that volunteer firefighters should have the opportunity to access the same workers' compensation coverage as their career counterparts, particularly if they should suffer one of the debilitating and life-impacting illnesses outlined in the presumptive cancer provisions of the SRC Act.

The Territory does, regrettably, have experience of firefighters having to access the presumptive cancer cover provisions of the SRC Act. No issues of concern have been identified in the management of those cases which would be relevant for your review's examination of the efficiency of the presumptive cancer reforms.


We will continue to provide any injured firefighters with the best support we can and we look forward to receiving the final report from the review, including any recommendations for further improvements in this area.

ACT Legislative Assembly

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ACT officials are available if you require further advice for the purpose of the review. The ACT contact officer is Mr Michael Young, Executive Group Manager, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations (Michael.Young@act.gov.au or (02) 6205 3095).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Stephen-Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

21 MAY 2019