

Alistair COE MLA
Giulia JONES MLA
Liberal Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly



Department of Jobs & Small Business
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To whom it may concern,

We write in relation to the *review of the firefighter provisions of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*, specifically whether the presumption of liability for prescribed cancers should be expanded to include volunteer firefighters in the ACT.

Volunteer firefighters are a key part of our emergency services, providing frontline responses to bushfires, storms and floods. They are selfless and dedicated in their service to our community.

In their line of work, volunteer firefighters are at risk of being exposed to harmful toxins and chemicals, which may cause cancer.

In 2011, the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* was amended to introduce a presumption of liability for 12 prescribed cancers suffered by paid firefighters. The link between these cancers and firefighting was key to developing this change.

As has been noted in the terms of reference, the decision was taken at the time not to extend this presumption of liability to volunteer firefighters.

It is our view that this presumption of liability should be expanded to ACT volunteer firefighters wherever appropriate.

We believe that government should recognise and take responsibility for the inherent health risks all firefighters selflessly take on in order to protect the community.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Coe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alistair Coe MLA
Leader of the Opposition
ACT Legislative Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giulia Jones', with a flourish at the end.

Giulia Jones MLA
Shadow Minister for Emergency Services
ACT Legislative Assembly