



## Conditions and protections

### Improving workers' compensation outcomes for firefighters

These amendments form part of an Australian Government commitment to support workers in their recovery from workplace injuries.

#### What has changed?

The *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022* amends the *Safety, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 1988* (the SRC Act) to streamline access to workers' compensation for firefighters covered by the SRC Act.

The amendments reduce the qualifying period for firefighters for oesophageal cancer from 25 years to 15 years and extend coverage of presumptive workers' compensation to volunteer firefighters in the Australian Capital Territory.

The amendments also clarify how volunteer firefighters access the presumptive provisions under the SRC Act. The Australian Capital Territory can also establish an advisory committee to provide expert advice and assist with the determination of volunteer firefighter claims.

#### What do these changes mean?

These amendments help to ensure that both employed and volunteer firefighters who contract specified illnesses have improved access to workers' compensation arrangements, streamlining the claims process to allow these workers to focus on their treatment and recovery.

The advisory committee will ensure the determination of workers' compensation claims made by volunteer firefighters in the ACT are supported by expert advice.

## When will these changes come into effect?

These changes came into effect on 7 December 2022.

For more information on the *Secure Jobs, Better Pay* package visit:

[www.dewr.gov.au/workplace-relations](http://www.dewr.gov.au/workplace-relations).