



Christmas 2017

Overview

Here we go again into the festive season after a generally quiet year.

Time being spent with family, friends and our emergency services colleagues is always great.

During the past year we have seen a change in Emergency Services Ministers, from Joe Francis to Fran Logan, Commissioner Gregson retiring and Darren Klemm appointed as the FES Commissioner.

The Emergency Services Minister has been out on the road visiting brigades, groups and SES Units. He has been listening to their different issues as well as their thoughts on the best way to conduct business into the future.

The Minister has made time for the SESVA to meet him on a number of occasions to discuss matters of interest relating to the SES and SES Volunteers.

The new FES Commissioner has settled into the role and is now reviewing a number of areas as DFES moves into a new era.

The SES National Raffle

The much awaited for SES raffle has received the final permit and will commence any day. The purpose of this raffle is to promote the good work done by the SES Volunteers, as well as promote different safety messages.

All profits will be used to benefit the SES Volunteers through a number of initiatives.

Maternity Wear for Volunteers

It was recently brought to our attention that SES Volunteers were denied maternity wear. DFES policy provides (and has done so for many years) maternity wear, where required by SES Volunteers. SES Local Managers can order these and if they have an issue in ordering, then please let this Association know.

Pagers to be turned off about February

DFES have advised that the old paging system will be turned off late January early February.

The pagers are being replaced by an SMSer system. The regional offices will be able to advise further on this matter.

Harnesses - Half Body Sit Style

DFES have advised that the above harness will be phased out in the first half of 2018 and replaced by a more suitable one (expected to be Skylotec Rescue Pro 2.0).

As these rollout, your regional office will advise you of the timelines.

Unavailability of the Chaplain

DFES have advised that this service has halted as the service provider can no longer deliver the required service. All regions have been advised of a survey for Volunteers to fill out to assist the future model. This Association strongly believes there needs to be a Chaplaincy service to provide pastoral care where required and is providing this message to DFES.

Training Matters

- 1 After many discussions and input over the past years, DFES are forming service based training advisory groups.
- 2 For the SES, there will now be the VSESTAG (Volunteer SES Training Advisory Group) which will be more aligned to SES training and less dominated by pathways.

The SESVA will be calling for EOIs sometime in the future.

- 3 DFES Volunteer Induction, as shown on eAcademy, will be removed from the website. SES Induction will only exist of an explanation of the Unit, introduction to DFES and OS&H as per the workbook.



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This induction must be completed before a member can be considered for deployment on a callout.

- 4 There has been a change to the Off-Road Driving Course Instructor requirements. SES Off Road Driving Course Instructors are only required to complete the Off-Road Driving component of the On Road/off Road Driving Instructor course (reduces the course time from 9 days to 3 or 4 days).
- 5 Paper based registration for all courses can now be done instead of through eAcademy – the regional District Officer will advise how this is to be done for your region.
- 6 Over the next twelve months pathways is being reviewed and it is expected that this will get rid of a number of the issues attributed to eAcademy.
- 7 The SESVA is discussing with DFES optional course requirements with a view to going to co-requisites for special courses in the future.

Reimbursement for Travel

Many Volunteers are not aware that they can claim travel to courses and meetings away from their unit where they have been approved by the regional office prior to the event. The regional office will provide the reimbursement forms.

Bunnings Barbecue 2018

The Bunnings annual Emergency Services BBQ will be conducted on 20 January 2018. A thirty second TV commercial has been

produced. A poster has also been produced and an electronic copy will be forwarded to units on request.

Volunteer Fuel Card

The Minister advises it will be \$1000 per Unit for this financial year. DFES are working on the administrative side. We expect that SES Units will be advised soon on how to apply for the card.

Police and Emergency Services Games

The 17th Australasian Police and Emergency Services (APES) Games will be held in Mandurah from 28 October to 3 November 2018.

DFES will be updating all services during the year on the progress and opportunities to be Involved.

Festive Season

On behalf of the SESVA Committee I wish you all a very safe, happy and incident free festive Season.

Let's hope that requests for assistance are minimal and everyone has a great time.

Thank you all for your support and assistance in 2017.

Cheers

Gordon Hall

SESVA President