



FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

2018 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE FORUM

This Forum is your one chance to be able to say and air your concerns regarding the future of the State Emergency Service.

PLEASE DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY

At a meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services on 30 October, the SESVA were ***very strongly told that the SES were not getting a Chief Officer and were to be integrated in DFES.***

Of the eight jurisdictions in Australia, seven have a Chief Officer of the SES.

Western Australia is the only jurisdiction in Australia without a Chief Officer.

The SES was integrated as a distinct Service and clear Division into FESA on 1 January 1999.

Over the past eight years the SES has gradually been eroded away to a Volunteer Service where DFES has a general responsibility by staff who in a number of cases have no understanding, no empathy and questionable interest of the role and requirements of the SES Volunteers.

(this is evidenced by the continual issues that units and Volunteers request the SESVA to assist with).

Since then the ***SES has gone into a marked decline – from 2500 Volunteers eight years ago to 1902 today.***

We believe that ***for the forum to be successful, DFES must be Open and Honest and to genuinely listen to the concerns of the SES Volunteers and act to get the State Emergency Service back on track to be a vibrant and well-respected service throughout Western Australia.***

All DFES communication and statements must be factual and evidence based – ***no more spin*** and equal time and exposure with the other services.

Donald's List - A list of some of the SES issues around WA - compiled by a number of SES Volunteers

1. No formal debriefs for search operations
2. No PIAs for search operations
3. No more DFES spin – All DFES communication and statements must be factual and evidence based
4. Any legislative changes must retain current section and delegations 3a of FES act for SES
5. All legislative changes require prior professional consultation before drafting
6. No more corridor briefings and consultations
7. DFES run, controlled, dictated to by a union (IF THIS DOESN'T CHANGE THEN WE WILL REMAIN BROKEN)
8. No SES Volunteers placed as IC for level 2 and above
9. The Command Structure is not balanced with the skills set
10. The Command structure is not based on skilled administrators of systems or people
11. No PIA/Debriefs for many SES operations
12. No process (formal or informal) to collate and disseminate information from all debriefs (hot, local, regional, incident etc)
13. Number of trainer/assessors reduced to less than 50% over the past 4 years
14. Superintendents and above who have no understanding or empathy of the role of the SES
15. Micromanagement of many SES units
16. Superintendents do not understand the SES and make decisions based on their structural Fire background
17. Some SES units get no support from their regional office
18. DFES lack of business practices eg no answer to emails or letters within 6 working days
19. SES Volunteers place items on Innovation Portal and they are hidden from view and totally ignored
20. Case management of injuries not transparent and in some cases do not provide effective support and feedback to SES Volunteers
21. No Chief Officer causes the prescribed association to have to give the context or a narrative at meetings so DFES staff understand the SES
22. Natural hazards staff should be called SES Dos
23. The name DFES should not have “Fire” in it – It should be Dept of Emergency Service)
24. The Regional Office does not provide any support for attraction or retention of SES Volunteers
25. Some staff do not understand the FES act of 1998 and how it applies to the SES – Section 3 and delegations – DFES staff apply FS act to SES and their Volunteers

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- 26.DFES has not provided a Local Managers development course to assist LMs in their roles at the unit and in the community
- 27.DFES has not provided a Training Managers development course to assist TMs in their roles at the unit
- 28.DFES are now considering a team leader course after advising SES Volunteers for over five years that specific team leader courses are not necessary
- 29.The Administration work load just continually increases for Volunteers
- 30.Operational systems require the same data to be entered in more than one system by the Volunteers
- 31.Lack of understanding of SES rescue roles leads to DFES ignoring requests for specialised equipment
- 32.Communication from DFES is poor, untimely and quite often not evidence based
- 33.Most up to date information comes from sources other than DFES
- 34.No clear leadership from DFES or foresight of the SES requirement
- 35.Systems such as eAcademy do not consider connectivity issues of many SES Volunteers
- 36.DFES IT Systems do not consider that SES Volunteers require the technology and associated skills to access and operate these systems
- 37.SES Volunteers train for 2/3 hours a week and do not have time for all the administration
- 38.DFES website/Volunteer portal has outdated information and not kept up to date
- 39.James Regan not recognised on the National Memorial Wall in Canberra - the SESVA have represented this with pages of evidence and hopefully it will be on there next year
- 40.Failure to provide adequate Flood Rescue Boat training
- 41.DFES denying WA Police SES Volunteers for forensic searches
- 42.Failure to introduce an effective RFA management system - WebEOC has numerous issues
- 43.Inconsistency of LGGS applications and grants to SES Units - DFES supers have no understanding of the role or requirements of the SES units and Volunteers
- 44.The workload of Natural Hazard (SES) DO's has increased at the expense of supporting SES Units and Volunteers
- 45.The SESVA are performing the work that an SES structure and staff should be performing.
- 46.There have been no improvements to SES operations in many years
- 47.No new technology has been introduced to enable more effective and efficient operations
- 48.Field Search Controllers get no continuation training, sharing of ideas etc from DFES

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49. We are only now being asked our opinion on the direction of our service. The first time in my experience. Just asking our opinions though, no guarantees or partnerships
50. After an SES unit orders PPC it takes a long time for delivery - four months for some items
51. Decisions made on what the SES Volunteers will and will not do made in the ComCen - no consultation
52. DFES requiring transferring SES Volunteers to do the full joining process when transferring to another unit
53. Training courses cancelled by DFES in December/ January due to operational requirements - no SES operations happening
54. Refusal by DFES to allow ESL for trauma bears to be purchased for children involved in car accidents serviced by SES RCR teams
55. Selection of SES staff invariably have non-SES personnel on the selection panel
56. DFES continually referring to SESVA for verification of members details and other data
57. Some senior staff have verbally advised that the SES Awards night will now be an all services awards night
58. DFES requires Volunteers on state committees to use webex. It does not work on their devices