



**QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE -
SENIOR OFFICERS UNION OF EMPLOYEES**

P.O. Box 217
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030
www.qfr-sou.asn.au

END OF 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Discussion Forum now Active on the SOU Website

In support of improved communications and discussion between SOU members, the SOU Website has been enhanced through the integration of an online discussion forum.

Members are encouraged to use this forum to debate and discuss pertinent issues. The current forum active is a discussion on the impact of risk aversion on emergency service operations. Go to: <http://www.qfr-sou.asn.au/forum/risk-aversion-and-its-impact-emergency-services> to access the forum.

Members are also welcome to nominate additional forum topics by contacting your Branch Councillor or alternately a member of the Executive.

Reminder for Seniors On-Call during the Christmas/New Year Period

SOU members are reminded of the conditions that apply in the event you are on call for the period that encompasses the dates Thursday 29th and Friday 30th of December. These 2 dates fall within the Government close down period (meaning that daywork staff need to use leave or TOIL to account for the time off).

However - Clause 5.4.4 of the 2009 Enterprise Agreement provides that "Those Senior Officers required to be on-call over the Christmas/New Year period, in accordance with the Circular issued by the Department of Industrial Relations, will not be debited annual leave for this period". Therefore - if you are rostered on call for Thursday 29th and Friday 30th of December please use the provisions as outlined as opposed to using annual leave or TOIL. Clause 5.4.4 should be referenced on your timesheet comment section.

Seniors are also reminded that all out of hours response activities (including during the Christmas/New Year break) is TOIL claimable. (Refer Section 5.4 *On Call Arrangements and Non-Standard Hours* of the 2009 Enterprise Agreement).

The Olga Wilson Firefighters Trust

The parameters of the Olga Wilson Firefighters Trust have been broadened with a new information booklet now available on the SOU website. (See: http://www.qfr-sou.asn.au/files/u2/ga_Wilson_FF_Trust_Booklet_Final_V1_29-09-11.pdf)

The Parameters of the Trust now include:

- Financial assistance to firefighters and their families.
- Research and development grants
- Professional development scholarships
- The Olga Wilson Award of Peer Support Officers, and
- Submissions which support groups of firefighters

SOU members are encouraged to review the information booklet in detail with a view to making submissions that fall within the categories provided.

Continuing SOU Preparations for the 2012 Enterprise Agreement (EA) Process

Members are reminded about considerations/preparations for the next Enterprise Agreement process due in 2012, and for the need to continue collecting suggestions for potential inclusion in the SOU Log of Claims.

An ideas proforma remains available for download from the SOU Website. (See:

http://www.qfr-sou.asn.au/files/u2/Enterprise_Agreement_Suggestions_1.doc)

Completed forms can be sent to the State Secretary, for collation and consideration by the Executive.

In addition, one of the outcomes from the 2011 State Conference was the need to review the outcomes of the senior officers' review with a view to identifying enhancements to the work previously undertaken. The Executive believes this piece of work will be best supported by formalising its need through the coming 2012 EA process as opposed to seeking any informal review. Feedback on this preferred strategy can be provided to the Executive via Branch Councillors.

Seasons Greetings

As 2011 draws to a close, the State Executive wishes all members an enjoyable Christmas/New Year break. We look forward to continuing the SOU progress made during 2011 in accordance with our SOU Objectives, and in line with our key philosophies of:

LEADERSHIP – RESPONSIBILITY - INFLUENCE

Yours in service



Andrew Short AFSM
State Secretary
Queensland Fire and Rescue -
Senior Officers Union of Employees