

Morris Family

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3rd August 2015

Mr W Butcher MP
191 Philip Street
Gladstone QLD 4680

Dear Glenn

RE: Inquiries into the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

As volunteer members of the Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade Jason, Sharon and Dennis Morris wish to comment on aspect of the above discriminatory bill, as it affects each and every one of who is a volunteer's in the Rural Fire Services. In particular, **on Page 22, 36 D Presumption of injury part (c) has attended at least 150 exposure incidents.**

1. It has only been for the last 18 months that official records have be kept of the number of fires each volunteer has attended, In some brigades there is still not official records kept.
2. Rural fire brigade attend many of the same fires as urban and auxiliary firefighters do, but without the same quality of lung protection. Volunteers are issued with paper smoke masks, the auxiliary with canister masks.
3. There is no research to indicate that the first fire a rural Fire Brigade attends is not dangerous to their health, but the same fire is dangerous to the health of paid urban and auxiliary firefighters.
4. By discrimination against the 36,000 volunteer Rural Fire fighters, There is a great chance that you will lose a large number of this volunteers by the introduction of this workers compensation cover. If you lose volunteers the work they do will need to be covered by paid personnel

5. There will be no new volunteers once it is explained to them they will not be fully covered until they have attended 150 fires, and those who have been active for many years with no proof of activity will be inclined to quit the brigades.
6. The First Officer of each brigade has a duty of care to the volunteers, Sending firefighters out to fires, particularly in to ize areas, knowing they are not fully covered may put the First Officer in a untenable position.

Regards

Morris Family

Captain Creek RFB member