

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Finance and Administration Committee](#)
Subject: To Whom It May Concern
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2015 11:15:13 AM

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself to voice our opinion on the fact that rural volunteer fire fighters have to attend 150 fires before being eligible for compensation for cancer related illness. This is so wrong as we stand next to urban and/or auxiliary fire fighters (who have full breathing apparatus supplied to them) at the same fires and we are not recognised as being of any importance. We work for no monetary gain unlike the urban and auxiliary people (most of whom in the auxiliaries would not be there if it was not for the extra money) and are treated as second class citizens. I cannot believe the audacity of the government in treating volunteers in this manner, people who are prepared to risk their lives for free and get no recognition whatsoever when it matters. A pat on the back does not suffice when you are seriously ill or dying. Where would you be without the volunteers?! Well keep treating us like this and you will soon find out as we, the volunteers, are getting tired of being treated like dirt and of no consequence. My husband and I have been an active part of the local brigade in our area for the past 12 years, and have attended many fires each year both hazard reduction and wildfires, saving properties and homes in the process. My husband has been First Officer for 10 of these 12 years, and we are both Crew Leaders but our expertise will be wasted as our enthusiasm is waning fast with the treatment being received by your government.

Kind regards,

Karen and Errol Thomas,
Marton Rural Fire Brigade.