



**Industrial Relations
(Transparency & Accountability
of Industrial Organisations)
Submission 021**

Queensland Fire and Rescue -
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The Chairperson
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Cnr George and Alice Streets
Brisbane QLD 4001

19 May 2013

**Subject: Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) and
Other Acts Amendment Bill 2013**

Dear Chairperson

We are writing to raise concerns relating to the impact of this Bill on industrial organisations such as ours. The current form of the Bill, if passed, will bring an onerous burden on the operations of the QFR-SOU primarily on the basis that we are purely an honorary-based industrial organisation.

To allow the Committee to clearly understand the impact on us, we provide the following points:

- None of our office holders are remunerated, either directly or indirectly, materially or otherwise.
- We have a small and unique membership base of approximately 130 members, and essentially operate as an industry professional body.
- We have no affiliations politically or industrially.
- We have by standard practice run all of our ballots using the Electoral Commission Queensland.
- We do not utilise credit cards as a means of supporting financial operations of our organisation.
- We table our independently audited financial statements at each and every annual QFR-SOU State Conference.
- Our rules (and subsequent member reporting) currently provide parameters around the use of organisation funds, with appropriate oversight.
- We view the requirement to register material personal interests declarations of our honorary elected officers as being extremely excessive in our context.

Whilst we understand the Government's desire to see improve transparency in industrial organisations especially in light of the Health Services Union matter, we pose that the impact on us as an honorary industrial organisation can not or could not be considered 'reasonable', and ask that appropriate exemptions are built into the amended Bill. This should be in the form of exclusions for industrial organisations meeting certain criteria.

In conclusion, we ask that consideration is given to the impact of industrial organisations such as ours, as we do not believe the intent of the Bill is to place additional red tape burden on organisations like the QFR-SOU. To assist in identifying potential solutions we would be willing to participate in further discussions.

Yours Sincerely,

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