

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I would like to know the reason it takes QLD Rural Fire Service so very long to present earned awards (QFES Medal, National Emergency Medal, National Medal etc) to entitled recipients. I understand that the National, and National Emergency Medals are Federal awards, and thus for at least part of the process, such is out of the control of QRFS, however, it appears apparent that QFES "sits" on nomination/application documentation for some time (years!) before forwarding such to applicable federal authorities. For example, the Rural Fire Services of NSW, VIC, SA, WA and even NZ, completed presenting National Emergency Medal (2019-2020) Bushfires medals to applicable entitled members, 18 months to two years ago, whilst the vast bulk of QRFS entitled members are still awaiting presentation of theirs! In regards to the QFES Medal, as this is a totally in-house QFES award, I see no reasonable explanation why it take around five years for entitled recipients to receive their awards. It is my opinion that these delays are unacceptable, and sends a strong message to volunteers that despite constant management assertions to the contrary, their service is not really all that highly valued.....recognition delayed = recognition denied! QRFS / QFES need to substantially lift their game with these matters.