

Question on Notice

No. 517

Asked on 16 April 2008

MR WEIGHTMAN ASKED THE TREASURER (MR FRASER)—

Will he outline to the people of the Cleveland Electorate, what measures have been taken by this Government to encourage members of the community to become volunteers in the great SES organisation?

ANSWER:

The Government has provided a range of measures in the *Payroll Tax Amendment (Harmonisation) Act 2008*, aimed at encouraging employers and employees to support volunteer activities beneficial to the community.

In particular, from 1 July 2008, the *Pay-roll Tax Act 1971* will provide an exemption for wages paid or payable to an employee during the period when the employee is performing functions as a volunteer member of the State Emergency Service or an emergency service unit under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

In addition, there will be exemptions for wages paid or payable to an employee in relation to the period during which the employee is:

- taking part in fire fighting or fire prevention activities, or associated activities, as a volunteer member of a rural fire brigade under the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*; and
- performing functions as an honorary ambulance officer under the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*.

These new exemptions will support employers to provide paid leave for their employees who volunteer in times of community distress through reduced pay-roll tax costs.