



## Statement of Co-operation

### THE PURPOSE:

To establish a committed relationship between The NZ Firefighters Welfare Society (NZFFWS) and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. This commitment is a recognition between the two organisation's who have a common purpose to provide support to all Fire and Emergency personnel. In particular, the relationship will grow awareness of the support services that NZFFWS provides to its members, which will benefit Fire and Emergency NZ personnel. In doing so NZFFWS will support safety, health and wellbeing outcomes for all firefighters and add value to Fire and Emergency's Volunteerism strategy.

Fire and Emergency NZ and NZ Firefighters Welfare Society recognise the mutual benefit of this relationship, particularly in times of significant hardship, emergency and natural disasters for firefighters and their whanau/families. Also, on a day-to-day basis where hardship or other vagaries of life and matters of personal significance that may impact Fire and Emergency NZ personnel.

### IN RECOGNISING THIS FIRE AND EMERGENCY NZ AND NZ FIREFIGHTERS' WELFARE SOCIETY WILL:

- Work to support the personal needs of all firefighters and their whanau/families through strong welfare and wellbeing services. Ensuring that the safety, health and wellbeing of their personnel and members is the highest priority.
- Committed to supporting a respectful and inclusive culture within Fire and Emergency NZ in delivery of the support to Firefighters Welfare.
- Support each other through communications engagement and social media channels for the benefit of all Fire and Emergency NZ personnel, employees and NZFFWS members,
- Review this document every two years.
- Encourage their regional, local and district teams to meet on a regular basis to build this relationship and share ideas and opportunities.
- Nationally the lead relationship owners will meet bi-monthly to discuss the partnership. The lead relationship owners will be the Manager of NZFFWS and senior manager of the Office of the Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency NZ.
- Make this document available for all Fire and Emergency NZ personnel and NZFFWS members to view.
- Agree that the privacy and confidentiality of personal information must be respected at all times, in line with the Privacy Act 1993 and Health Information Privacy Code 1994. Each part will obtain clear consent from personnel before discussing or passing on any for follow up and support.
- Ensure that any dispute, difference, or question which may arise at any time between the parties with respect to this agreement, is dealt with appropriately. Notice of a dispute will be made in writing to the signatories of this agreement. In the first instance disputes will be resolved by the relationship owners. Should an agreement as to the resolution of the dispute not be met, a third-party mediator will be commissioned to establish a solution to the dispute.

EACH ORGANISATION WILL HAVE AN INDEPENDENT COMMITMENT TO THIS RELATIONSHIP:

1) NEW ZEALAND FIREFIGHTERS' WELFARE SOCIETY WILL:

- Provide wellbeing and welfare services to its members, to support them in their times of need, particularly when it may support their return to duty within Fire and Emergency NZ.
- In keeping with their motto "Firefighters helping Firefighters" provide a network of trained volunteers throughout New Zealand to provide face to face pastoral care and support to their members.
- Provide financial support, through our range of benefits to those members who have medical emergencies.
- Provide financial support through their Disaster Fund.
- Provide guidance to their members on how to access psychological wellbeing support via Fire and Emergency NZ tiers of support.
- Provide convalescence and respite housing to its members, and when requested by Fire and Emergency NZ non-members. Should this request be made by Fire and Emergency NZ to provide this service, the costs will be covered by Fire and Emergency NZ.
- Promote education tools and services for better wellbeing outcomes to their members, their whanau/families.
- Maintain strict privacy policy, as per the NZFFWS Privacy Policy to protect the privacy of our members and Fire and Emergency.
- Note – All services as mentioned in this Statement of Cooperation will be subject to the Rules and Policies of the NZFFWS.

\*NZFFWS provides a range of benefits. Which can be found on website [www.firefighters.org.nz](http://www.firefighters.org.nz)

2) FIRE AND EMERGENCY NEW ZEALAND WILL:

- In support of the unpaid nature of NZFFWS work, reasonably release Fire and Emergency NZ employed NZFFWS representatives to fulfill the duties and the mission of the Society. This may include but not be limited to house calls to those in need, Board Meetings, AGMs, and various conferences.
- Ensure that the Safety Health and Wellbeing teams (including IMU) are aware of the services and support provided by the NZFFWS and know when and how to identify NZFFWS members and non-member personnel and refer them to the NZFFWS for support and if necessary, request permission of the member to contact NZFFWS directly to initiate support services if the member is unable to.
- Provide access to NZFFWS to engage with Fire and Emergency NZ personnel through recruitment and volunteer courses for the purpose of growing NZFFWS membership.
- Support the NZFFWS by providing information about the Organisation to all new Fire and Emergency NZ employees.
- Include NZFFWS representatives in working parties, which may impact their work, or where they can add value and offer perspective for their members.
- Provide representatives with reasonable access to IT communications services and administrative office space. Providing such access does not otherwise interfere with Fire and Emergency NZ day to day operations. Local management may also assist with the provision of Fire and Emergency carpool vehicles on a case-by-case basis where a need is identified.

- Continue to make deductions from their staff on NZFFWS behalf and send fortnightly and monthly reports to NZFFWS.
- Provide an annual grant of \$15,000.00 plus GST per annum, to ensure the success of this partnership and support the operational growth of the society, as laid out in the 5-year strategic objectives of NZFFWS. The annual grant is not a membership fee, but recognition of the contribution the NZFFWS makes to support all Fire and Emergency NZ personnel. The Grant will be paid quarterly. NZFFWS will submit an invoice for each Fire and Emergency NZ financial quarter.
- In addition, where Fire and Emergency NZ has requested support from non-members of the NZFFWS, Fire and Emergency agree to reimburse costs incurred in the delivery of the services of NZFFWS. Costs will be agreed prior to providing the service or support. Once the service or support has been delivered, NZFFWS will provide a short summary of the services and any outcomes along with an invoice for the agreed amount.

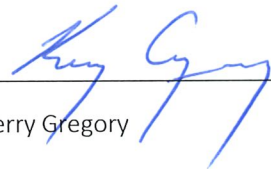
New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society

Signatory


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Swan

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Signatory

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Gregory

DATE

  
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20/6/2023

Next Review February 2025