



SIGNAL SEVEN

23 June 2022

24 Hour Shifts

As discussed at the last two union meetings, the UFU has created a 24hour specific email address to start collating information on 24 hour shifts.

In response to members expressing their interest in the issue, we undertook to research issues surrounding 24 hour shifts/24 hour roster system. We will look at the issue in a holistic manner from every possible perspective. We are interested in hearing from our members:

- Comments, suggestions, thoughts or ideas
- positives and the negatives
- Impacts on you: Work, workplace/section, work/life balance etc
- Any potential mechanisms for the introduction of any such a change.

Please be specific in your emails with what you are addressing, this will ensure the most accurate data can be captured. The email address is below:

24@ufuact.asn.au

Please take the time to have your say. We are interested in hearing your perspective. Please don't ask "how will it work" or similar questions. There are no firm proposals, and this is a listening and information gathering exercise.

General Update

We are looking to get more information out into the hands of our members by having each Committee submit a short report about its progress, starting here:

PPC Update

We are still exchanging correspondence on the proposed trial of PPC "Total Care". We have identified a wide range of measures that need to be considered in making sure that any system that is implemented has been fully tested and is robust and reliable. We will provide an update when we know more.

Skills Maintenance Update

The committee has met 4 times since the Agreement was signed in 2020: the fourth meeting took place today. We have reached agreement in a number of areas, and we are continually looking at moving forward. A big issue being discussed with a view to agreement is what would happen to an individual if they are found to not be competent in a skill they are required to maintain. At this point I have to pass my thanks to all of the members of the Committee for the time and effort they put in, especially outside of the scheduled meetings. Special mention needs to go to Kari Harlovich and Sam Evans, both who always appear to be working extremely hard and continually deliver high quality material for us to consider.

Unfortunately, overall progress is particularly slow. It appears to us that not enough resources are being committed to the Skills Maintenance program to actually get it up and functioning as intended. We are still yet to have the position of the Commander of Skills Maintenance appointed. It has been said to us that agreed documents like the letter of engagement to SME's can't be sent out to all the SME's and instructors for their particular subject, until the Commander of Skills Maintenance approves it.

Two years in we are still without a Commander of Skills Maintenance. It begs the question of how 400+ firefighters are going to get through mandatory skills maintenance on 13 subjects in less than a year, without even considering all of our level 2 skills.

In short, we believe ACTF&R is already in breach of the Agreement. To our mind, assessment of First aid and Breathing apparatus have not yet taken place (required annually under the Agreement). Despite the committee's best efforts, I believe that without investing the Government's promised resources into the project, we will fall well short of our requirements, placing ACTF&R in further breach of the Agreement. Watch this space

Dave Bridgford

Enterprise Bargaining for Emergency Communications Officers

Enterprise Bargaining for the Emergency Communications Officers has commenced. They are currently covered by the Technical and Other Professionals Enterprise Agreement. Items of particular priority are a composite wage (taking into account things like average overtime, paid meal breaks, public holidays, penalty rates etc). We have a significant work program ahead of us, and some good outcomes in our sights.

Further Information? Jennifer Iles, Communications Officer Rep

UFU making preliminary investigations into a potential underpayment

The UFU is making some preliminary investigations into a potential underpayment. It relates to time worked that is accrued as 'flex leave', and when this bank of hours exceeds 40 the excess disappearing from an employee's pay record. Keep your eyes out in the next week for a dedicated signal 7 with instructions to members who believe where there may have been instances of this happening to them.

UFU Representatives

Below is a current list of our representatives and the committee that they sit on. In the first instance, please contact the appropriate consultative committee representative if you have any questions information or wish to discuss something.

Consultative Committees:

Facilities: Warrick Hancock

Uniform and PPC: Kate Judd

Vehicle & equipment (and related initiatives): Bruce Rodway

Aerial working group: Col Thurtell

Work, Health, Safety: David Bridgford

Community Recruitment process for Colleges 48 & 49: Sam French

Final interview panel for Community Recruitment process for College 48: Sam French & Phil Cook

Workplace Consultative Committees (WCC)

ComCen: Sandy Fisk, Bill McTernan, Jeff Dau, Jake Cannon

Health and Wellbeing: Troy Ticehurst / Mate Peric

Skills Maintenance: David Bridgford / Scott Weston

Recruitment: Andrew Johnston

Branch Committee of Management (BCOM)

Greg McConville - Secretary

Adam Gresham – President

Vacant – Vice President

David Bridgford – Junior Vice President

Arron Kiewiet - Trustee

Kate Judd – Trustee

Guy Cassis - Trustee

Peter McGrath - Trustee.

Strength in Unity

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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