

Whats happening...

As you are all well aware by now, COVID 19 has significantly impacted our lives and lifestyles. We know many of the 10,000 members of the SES will struggle during this time and the Volunteers Association continues to work to support each of you where we can.

COVID 19 has changed the way we as volunteers prepare and respond to emergencies, and everyone at the Volunteers Association cannot be more proud of the way that you all continually step up when our communities need you the most.

The COVID 19 environment is changing daily and it is important to keep up to date with the most current information from the correct sources. Please also keep an eye out for the Volunteers Association Facebook, email, social media, magazine and newsletter as these are the ways we communicate with you regarding our constantly updated support mechanisms.

Our best wishes to all of you and please keep yourselves, your colleagues and your families safe.

COVID 19 Support

Since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic the Volunteers Association has continued and implemented the following support mechanisms which remain in place;

Welfare Fund Support – Applications to the SES Volunteers Association Welfare Fund can be made 24/7 online or contact the SESVA for assistance

Care Packages – The Volunteers Association care packages of essential food etc were a massive success during the drought and bushfires. We continue to make these available to members who request them

Drought and Fire Support Packages – Although most feel the drought has passed, the ongoing effects remain for many of our rural members. These packages remain available, please contact us for assistance.

Hygiene Packs – The public rush for these products left many members, and SES Units/vehicles without sanitary and hygiene products. The SES Volunteers Association has sent out a huge amount of product but, like all of Australia, experiences difficulty obtaining resupply. **These items have been prioritised and rationed to frontline response units first and then to personal members and their families after this.** The SESVA prepares as much as it can for these instances and at time of writing we still have supplies.

Masks/Toilet Paper/Hand Towel etc – We have received a lot of requests for these items and much the same as the sanitary items, we still have supplies but demand is exceeding our ability to restock. If you need some please contact us ASAP.

Advocacy – We have advocated and made representation for a unit regarding possible risk due to substantial toilet facilities. We will continue to advocate and represent any unit or member who identifies risk associated with COVID 19 and place these items as the highest priority.

Hospital Visits – It is with regret that hospital visits and flower deliveries have been suspended during the COVID 19 pandemic. This decision has been made with advice received to ensure the safety of everyone. Cards remain available from the SESVA at any time to be sent to any members requiring them.

Mental Health Support – Private and confidential care is arranged for members across the state to access health professionals when requested. Please contact us for further details.

For any other support you may require please contact us immediately.

NSW SES Volunteers Association Supporting Volunteers whatever the Emergency

Contact us for Member Services Support & access to the NSW SESVA Welfare Fund
P: 1300 073 782 E: office@nswsesva.org.au

Business As Usual. The SESVA, its Board of Directors and Office remain available for your support. Plans have been put into place with best practices regarding how our services can remain available whilst keeping everyone safe.

Did you know...The Volunteers Association made hand sanitisers for volunteers when all suppliers ran out of stock? This allowed volunteers to have sanitary products along with a personal touch from the SESVA.

Stop Press – The Volunteer Magazine



At time of writing, the publishers of The Volunteer magazine have notified the SESVA that due to COVID 19 they are unable to physically publish the magazine. The SESVA has worked to ensure that an electronic version remains available and we are currently looking at all possibilities regarding the magazine.

This past few months we have received lots of submissions for the magazine which has bolstered its pages like never before. Thank you to all of you who have sent in submissions and pictures. Please continue to send them in and tell everyone what is occurring in your local area.

VJCC

The Volunteer Joint Consultative Committee again met recently with the SES Commissioner and senior members of the SES. As requested by the volunteers of the SES, a good number of topics were brought to the attention of the SES and discussed. Their responses can be found on EOS under VJCC minutes.

This committee remains an avenue for volunteers to make any report to the SES, whether requested or not, as per the SES Act 1989. If you would like a topic raised, please contact the SESVA.

Business as Usual

COVID 19 has changes the way we all go about work, SES and day to day business. The SESVA is attempting to minimise these disruptions as much as possible. This year has been earmarked for a lot of work including member benefits and support. Along with the direct benefits, our business continues as usual, and our requirements as an association and charity need to progress. This year we will be updating the Constitution and various policy & procedures of the SESVA to ensure they remain contemporary in today's changing society. We ask that you look at these documents and provide any feedback to the SESVA so everyone can have a say in their association.

Operational Activity

You may have seen our latest banner on social media of DROUGHT FIRES FLOODS STORMS COVID 19. This sums up the resilience and commitment of the SES members to the SES and their communities. When we thought we may get a break from hit after hit of operational tempo, COVID19 came barreling down. Whilst not a direct combat role for us, we know that it is having significant effects and changes to the way we carry out our roles. As they say, we are all in this together, so lets keep safe and see each other on the other side of COVID19.

Mental Health First Aid

The Volunteers Association MHFA courses have been huge success. We have received so much great feedback, and further requests for these courses than we ever thought. What started as a course for each Zone has grown to many more.

Unfortunately COVID 19 has taken its toll in this area as well. MHFA is a course run through MHFA Australia and the SESVA purchased these courses to be delivered to members of the SES. MHFA has ceased the ability for these courses to be run as they require face to face training.

The two courses booked in for south west NSW have had to be postponed as well as the courses planned for other areas of the state. We acknowledge the disappointment and importance of this training and we are looking at different ways and models we can have this training delivered to members.

If you know of any courses in the mental health space that can be delivered remotely please contact us. Watch this space.

EAT SLEEP RESPOND

Our ESL products are still going gang-busters. We have seen them in different states and even on cruise ships! We have had so much great feedback regarding the t-shirts that we have now released hoodies and beanies to the range. These will compliment the shirts and hats etc. Please get in early because thousands have gone out and the sizes deplete quickly.



Wear it & Share it! Tag us wearing your ESR Gear!

Instagram

Our Eat Sleep Respond Merchandise page is now on Instagram!

#Eatsleeprespond