



Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc.

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# Auxiliary Update

December 2015



## President's Message

*It's almost Christmas 2015 and we hope you enjoy the festive season with family and friends and have a break before 2016 arrives.*

2015 has brought many changes. QFES has a new Commissioner, Katarina Carroll, who has now appointed Doug Smith as Chief Strategy Officer (Capability and Performance) and Mike Wassing as Deputy Commissioner (Emergency Service Volunteers). They join Mark Roche, appointed as Deputy Commissioner (Operations and Emergency Management). We are about to learn who and where the Assistant Commissioners fit into the developing QFES picture.

This year, across QFES, a number of key changes have taken place, including:

The Auxiliary Firefighter Award becomes effective 01 January 2016. A requirement of Government was that all paid employees be covered by an award. The new award is on our website. There are many unanswered questions relating to implementation of the components to this award. Hopefully, these will be made clear sooner rather than later.

The new uniform has been introduced with mixed reviews and is being rolled out across the State.

A review has been completed into PSBA and it is hoped that this will be published as soon as possible. A review into training is also complete and being published. QAFA has secured vast improvements to training outcomes and continues to monitor training closely. Let us know if you are having problems getting access to qualification based training. More changes coming in the New Year.

Harassment and bullying issues have been reviewed and recommendations have been adopted by government. A QFES Harassment Information Line has been established, providing confidential services to all QFES personnel, and can be reached on (07) 3635 3672 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you have issues, contact the 'hotline' or QAFA.

Presumptive Legislation re certain Cancers in Firefighters has included Auxiliaries, and is approved.

QAFA has published two editions of a new magazine for Auxiliaries. Next edition is due out in early 2016. If you have a story, with photos, send it in for consideration. QFES has also published an informative magazine.

QAFA remains ready and able to support our Auxiliary Firefighter members in many ways and continues to seek better outcomes for all auxiliary firefighters.

The wildfire season is here and, as we support our rural brigades, I encourage you all to stay safe.

I also encourage all Auxiliary Firefighters to support your Association by becoming a member. Simply visit the website [www.qafa.asn.au](http://www.qafa.asn.au) and follow the prompts to either renew your membership or to join.

Visit the website to access a range of documents, including the New Award and Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7 Auxiliary Employment Conditions. These are regularly updated. QAFA has a range of merchandise also accessible on the website,

*We - myself and the State Committee - wish you, and your loved ones, a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year !*

Stay Safe.



Rodger Sambrooks

President

***We urge you to renew your membership or join if you are not yet a member. 2016 Membership now due.***

