

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 17 August 2022

C794. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management

I refer to a letter I wrote to your office on 8 June 2022, which has not yet been replied to, seeking to establish dedicated leave arrangements for recognised emergency service volunteers in Western Australia, and I ask:

1. Will the State Government bring WA public sector employees in line with the Commonwealth public sector by introducing paid leave arrangements for emergency services volunteers?
2. If no to (1), why not?
3. What specific measures does the State Government provide to support public sector workers who are also emergency service volunteers attend emergencies or training?

Answer


(1 – 3) Emergency service volunteers do an incredible job on behalf of all Western Australians and as part of their industrial agreements, they are already entitled to paid leave to respond to emergencies.

This is just another example of the Liberal and National parties lack of basic comprehension, failing to understand that entitlements are already available to volunteers underneath the industrial agreements that covers their employment or the relevant whole of Government circular.

Many public sector industrial instruments provide paid and uncapped Emergency Service Leave (ESL) for public sector employees who attend an emergency as a volunteer for listed organisations.

Circular to Departments and Authorities 2 of 2001 – Paid Leave for Emergency Service Volunteers provides paid ESL for those employees without an industrial entitlement, which for the Members convenience, I now table a copy of.

Part 9 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* also provides protection and allowances for employees who are also members of an emergency management agency.





2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005
Telephone 08 9222 7700
Facsimile 08 9 222 7777
Email doplar@doplar.wa.gov.au
Web www.doplar.wa.gov.au

Our Ref: WM00003/2000
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Glenda Husk (9222 7663)

CIRCULAR TO DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES NO. 2 OF 2001

PAID LEAVE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

This Circular replaces Circular to Departments and Authorities No 23 of 1985.

Government employees who are members of the State Emergency Service, St John Ambulance Brigade, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Bush Fire Brigade or Volunteer Marine Rescue Services and who are absent from duty as a result of their attendance at an emergency, may be granted leave with pay for the period of the absence.

The leave with pay is to be granted on the basis that the employee is not required for the Employer's own essential operations and/or emergency services and the voluntary organisation requiring an employee's services certifies that the person is or was required for the specific period.

**JOHN SERICH
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICES**

30 May 2001