

FIREFIGHTERS — PRESCRIBED DISEASES

431. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

I refer to the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Amendment Regulations 2023.

- (1) What is the estimated cost of adding “primary site melanoma” and “malignant mesothelioma” to the list of specified diseases that provide added protections to career and volunteer firefighters?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of adding “post-traumatic stress disorder” to the prescribed diseases that provide additional protection to only career firefighters?
- (3) Why have Department of Fire and Emergency Services communications systems officers been excluded from the PTSD presumptive protection when their equivalent in the ambulance service have been protected since 1 February 2022?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

- (1) No costing was undertaken. The change was made on the basis of the independent scientific review on presumptive firefighter cancers by Dr Lin Fritschi of Curtin University.
- (2) No costing was undertaken. The change was made on the basis that firefighters are exposed to similar traumatic events as ambulance workers and therefore are placed on the same footing.
- (3) The government has determined that it will progress a farther amendment to extend the PTSD presumption to relevant DFES officers equivalent to ambulance emergency communications officers.