

## United Voice Northern Territory Branch

### Inquiry into the provisions of the Fair Work Amendment (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) Bill 2016



**United Voice, Northern Territory Branch**

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## **Background**

United Voice Northern Territory Branch (UVNT) is part of United Voice, one of Australia's largest Unions, representing over 120,000 workers nationally.

UVNT makes this submission as the union representative of we represent both professional fire fighters and paramedics in the Territory.

We represent both public and private sector fire fighters, with the exception of Aviation fire fighters, in full time/permanent and part time/retained or auxiliary employment.

UVNT also represents members employed in the ambulance industry in the Northern Territory in both the emergency and the non-emergency patient transport sector.

We welcome the invitation to make a submission to the Senate Education and Employment Committees on behalf of our members regarding the *Fair Work Amendment (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) Bill 2016* (Bill).

## **Submissions**

United Voice Northern Territory Branch supports the submissions of United Fire Fighters Union and their affiliated Branches and the Ambulance Employees Australia Victoria. Further:

1. The Bill is a flagrant attack on emergency service workers and their unions by expressively interfering in the negotiations of enterprise agreements.
2. The Bill also permits volunteer organisations to participate in any matter before the Fair Work Commission that could be argued could affect volunteers.
3. The Bill is adversary in nature towards emergency service employees by prohibiting a wide range of terms and conditions that would otherwise be deemed lawful and enforceable in any other industry/enterprise agreement.
4. The Bill expressly provide for third party interference on all matters that could arguably have some link, however unsubstantiated, that "might affect" volunteers. It does not need to negatively affect volunteers.
5. The UVNT strongly opposes the ability for individuals who are not covered by the provisions of the relevant fire fighter enterprise agreements and paramedic

enterprise agreements to interfere with the collective will of Northern Territorian fire fighters and paramedics.

6. UVNT are of the opinion that the working lives of Northern Territorian fire fighters and paramedics will not be enhanced by the Bill and the legislation should be abandoned.
7. United Voice NT Branch strongly urges the Senate to reject the *Fair Work Amendment (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) Bill 2016* and the Senate commits to preserving the collective bargaining provisions provided for in Part 4 of the *Fair Work Act*.