

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output. 2.4

Question No. 99

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Emergency Services Volunteers:

Please advise of the policies that apply to the reimbursement of costs incurred by volunteers in each jurisdiction.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Please note that these responses have been sourced directly from jurisdictions, two of which have not replied.

State / Territory	Policy relating to reimbursement of costs incurred by volunteers in the jurisdiction
New South Wales	<p>The New South Wales Fire Brigades, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service have a policy of reimbursing volunteers for out of pocket expenses.</p> <p>In general, volunteers within the Ambulance Service of New South Wales do not receive any payment. Arrangements are in place to pay out of pocket expenses and fuel for Chaplains. The Service provides training, uniforms, equipment and replenishes consumables used by approved volunteer groups.</p>
Victoria	<p>In Victoria there is no state-wide policy for reimbursing costs that volunteers incur. However, Victoria has a number of emergency services agencies which are statutory authorities, and these agencies have internal processes in place to reimburse volunteers for out of pocket expenses. For example both CFA and VICSES have a process in place to reimburse costs for volunteers to attend training courses. It should be noted that there are state-wide policies that give emergency services volunteers access to compensation for personal injury and damage to their property.</p>
Queensland	<p>There is no official Department of Emergency Services policy on the reimbursement of expenses, however, both Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Emergency Management Queensland do reimburse volunteers for out of pocket expenses incurred and incidentals. These are however, paid at the discretion of the relevant divisional head and the Director-General.</p> <p>"Where volunteers are asked to be away from home all meals and accommodation is provided to the volunteer. In addition, where the volunteer is away from home overnight an incidental allowance is paid in accordance with the whole of Government Directive".</p>
Western Australia	<p>N/A Not available at the time of compilation of this response.</p>

State / Territory	Policy relating to reimbursement of costs incurred by volunteers in the jurisdiction
South Australia	<p>South Australian Emergency Services Organisations and South Australia Fire and Emergency Services Commission have a general policy of reimbursing any out of pocket expenses incurred during the course of carrying out the voluntary work.</p> <p>South Australian Ambulance Service has a volunteer entitlements policy that reimburses or enables the provision of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Travel at the standard Government rate - Meal reimbursement at standard Govt rate for intrastate and interstate travel - Meal reimbursement if on a call out over an identified meal period - Reimbursement to employers for lost wages as a result of an employee responding to a SAAS callout during their paid employment - Business expenses incurred by self employed volunteers - Child care through recognised child care providers for when an operational volunteer undertakes a shift - Lost or damaged personal items in the course of duty - Medical assessments for entry criteria - Medical expenses after personal injury - Footwear reimbursement - Ambulance cover - Travel for psychological counselling - Legal representation for matters pertaining to the course of duties performed - Honorariums to a maximum limit for each volunteer station /individual for service above and beyond expected 'normal' volunteer duties
Tasmania	The policy on reimbursement of expenses for volunteers is managed by specific volunteer management agencies in Tasmania.
Australian Capital Territory	N/A Not available at the time of compilation of this response.
Northern Territory	<p><u>NT Ambulance Service</u></p> <p>It is a policy of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) that all costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their volunteer duties are fully reimbursed</p> <p><u>NT Fire Service (NTFRS)</u></p> <p>The NTFRS do not have a reimbursement of funds policy as all uniforms, vehicles, fuel and station buildings are supplied and maintained by the NTFRS. Training and resources are supplied by the training section and if volunteers are involved for an extended period, welfare is arranged and supplied by the NTFRS.</p> <p><u>NT Emergency Services (NTES)</u></p> <p>NTES do not have a reimbursement of funds policy as all uniforms, vehicles, fuel and station buildings are supplied and maintained by the NTES. Training and resources are supplied by the training section and if volunteers are involved for an extended period, welfare is arranged and supplied by the NTES.</p>