

# News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

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## Laws introduced to cover career firefighter cancer risk

Minister for Industrial Relations John Rau will today introduce a Bill to lighten the burden for career firefighters who are exposed to higher cancer risk as a result of their work. The move was an Australian first when announced in November last year.

“This change will reduce the emotional and financial burden that can sometimes face career firefighters and their families,” Mr Rau said.

“We know that career firefighters are exposed to a greater risk of developing certain types of cancer due to the direct exposure to carcinogens released by some combustible materials, particularly in confined spaces.

“This measure will ensure that from 1 July 2013, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) firefighters who contract any of the 12 specified cancers will be able to access workers’ compensation with less difficulty.

“This means they will not have to prove that the cancer arose from their employment with SAMFS – in effect, the onus will be reversed.

The compensable primary site cancers and the applicable periods of employment are:

- Primary site brain cancer – 5 years
- Primary site bladder cancer – 15 years
- Primary site kidney cancer – 15 years
- Primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma – 15 years
- Primary leukaemia – 5 years
- Primary site breast cancer – 10 years
- Primary site testicular cancer – 10 years
- Multiple myeloma – 15 years
- Primary site prostate cancer – 15 years
- Primary site ureter cancer – 15 years
- Primary site colorectal cancer – 15 years
- Primary site oesophageal cancer – 25 years

Mr Rau said that the Bill would cover only career firefighters as there is insufficient evidence to support an increased prevalence of cancers in volunteer firefighters.

“The Government will provide support to studies that address the gap in scientific evidence available in relation to this matter and will consider a position once clearer evidence is obtained.”

The *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation (SAMFS Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2013*, will be introduced into the House of Assembly today.