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### Presumptive Legislation in Queensland

(Based upon the Fair Protection for Firefighters Act 2011 - Federal)

The UFUQ has now secured commitment from the Queensland Opposition Leader Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP and Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services Mr Bill Byrne MP to introduce Presumptive Legislation into QLD Parliament on return of the ALP to government in Queensland.

In correspondence to UFUQ, the ALP MP's stated –

*“On return to government, we commit to the following –  
Introducing presumptive legislation into the Queensland Parliament, in consultation with the UFUQ, to reverse the onus of proof for firefighters who contract scheduled diseases in the workplace, in accordance with best practice legislation.”*

I am in the process of contacting all political parties and Independents in seeking commitment to the legislation to protect Queensland firefighters.

These laws identify diseases or conditions that have been shown to be hazards associated with our occupation. As a result, if an individual employed as a firefighter covered by the presumptive legislation contracts a specified disease or condition, it is presumed to have come from exposure to many toxins and carcinogens.

Unlike our Workers Compensation system, the burden of proof then shifts from the employee to employer to demonstrate that the condition was not the result of occupational exposure.

This type of legislation is already passed in the following jurisdictions:

Western Australia  
Tasmania  
Aviation Firefighters

South Australia  
Australian Capital Territory

I will keep you informed of our progress regarding this vitally important matter in 2014.

John Oliver - State Secretary

Authorsied by John Oliver State Secretary  
United Firefighters' Union of Australia, Union of Employees - QLD