



August, 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN ATTRACTS 10 NEW VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

A targeted recruitment campaign has paid off with the addition of 10 new volunteer firefighters to further strengthen the capacity of the Horsham CFA brigade.

The new members have reinforced the brigade's ability to respond to daytime fires. The volunteer brigade is now meeting its turn-out target on at least 98 per cent of calls.

The brigade has about 100 members on the books, including juniors and non-operational volunteers. About 50 of the volunteers are active firefighters.

Brigade captain John St Clair said the recruitment campaign had been a great success.

"We actively recruited members who can respond between 9am and 5pm and as a result we have improved our response time dramatically," Mr St Clair said.

The new recruits include night shift workers; people able leave their work during the day and mothers.

Eight of the new recruits have completed their training to become active firefighters while the remaining two will soon be able to join the response teams.

The brigade responds to about 200 calls a year, including structure fires, fuel spills and other emergency incidents.

"The past 15 months we've been lucky and had only a few structure fires," Mr St Clair said.

While the brigade has enough volunteers to respond to calls around the clock, Mr St Clair said new members were always welcome.

"We could always have more people and it's a good feeling to provide a service that protects the community," he said.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said volunteers are essential to public safety and provide a professional service that is effective and affordable.

“Our dedicated volunteers are continuing a great Australian tradition that is well respected in our communities,” Mr Ford said.

Mr Ford said volunteers are part of the fabric of society and contribute to community resilience.

...Ends