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MEDIA RELEASE

CFA volunteers encouraged to 'have your say'

Volunteer fire fighters across south-west Victoria are being encouraged to have their say on how well their expectations and needs are being met across key issues affecting satisfaction, morale, welfare and efficiency.

The annual Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey will provide direct feedback to the CFA, government and other key decision makers.

VFBV wants all volunteers to use this valuable opportunity to bring to life the voice of volunteers on the front line and give decision makers evidence, data and insights that will increase understanding and drive improvements on matters important to volunteers.

The survey, now in its sixth year, is a simple but powerful survey designed by volunteers for volunteers and run by VFBV on behalf of volunteers.

The results of the survey give VFBV an important and reliable method of capturing the views of volunteers and to track progress on what has been achieved, what is improving, and what needs to be addressed if volunteers are dissatisfied.

"All volunteers should take the opportunity to have their say, particularly those in the more remote rural locations. Typically the participation rates for the survey have been quite low in District 4," District 4 Council President Kelvin Bateman said.

"It is important that volunteers across south-west Victoria region give their opinions to help create change if and where it is needed," Mr Bateman said. "Every voice and opinion counts and whether you have been a volunteer for months or decades we want to hear from you. The more people who do the survey the better chance we will have to compel attention and effort to addressing the challenges and opportunities for improvement."

The 2017 VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey is open during October and CFA volunteers can complete the survey by visiting VFBV website at www.vfbv.com.au/cfa or emailing VFBV at vfbv@vfbv.com.au for a hard copy survey form.

The survey was launched in 2012 as a way of measuring how things were going on issues such as how well volunteers are being supported, respected, trained, recruited and retained

from the organisational level right through to local CFA District and brigade level. The survey is simple to undertake and takes only about 10 to 12 minutes to complete.

The survey is now also being offered to volunteers across the emergency sector including Ambulance Victoria, Life Saving Victoria, Red Cross Emergency Services, The Salvation Army, Victoria State Emergency Service and Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry. Survey results will be collated for each agency plus there will be analysis of views, expectations and trends across Victoria's Emergency Sector volunteers.

Each year, the survey results are compared with previous years' figures, to show trends in how volunteers feel on issues and to track whether things are improving or whether new challenges are emerging.

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