Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Emergency Services

VICTORIA State Government

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FUNDING BOOST FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

Emergency services volunteers across the state are receiving a funding boost, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino today announced the 2017-18 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) is open.

The following groups are being urged to apply for a share of more than $13 million in funding:

- Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association
- Country Fire Authority
- Life Saving Victoria
- Victoria State Emergency Service
- Other eligible volunteer emergency services groups as defined in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria.

This year's fund is the largest since the grant program started in 2011 - with the Labor Government providing almost $200,000 more than last year.

The funding supports emergency services volunteer groups to purchase life-saving equipment, helping them better serve their communities in times of need.

Grants of up to $100,000 are available to meet the cost of a range of items, such as new tankers and trucks, pumps and generators and improvements to facilities.

Groups must raise a portion of the funding, with the VESEP contributing $2 for every $1 fundraised.

Applications are open now. For more information on how to apply visit: www.emv.vic.gov.au/vesep

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino

"Our emergency services volunteers are often the first line of defence during fires, floods, storms and water emergencies. We value the hard yards they put in to keep their communities safe."

"The grants will give groups access to the new equipment they need to keep the community safe for the years ahead."

"I encourage all eligible volunteer groups to take advantage of the funding and apply right away."

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