Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations

MEDIA STATEMENT

11 May 2017

National Fire Associations Chairperson thanks volunteer fire fighters during National Volunteer Week.

National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of our nation's volunteers and thank them for their generous contribution to our community.

Volunteer members make up the majority of the membership base for each Australian State or Territory rural or bush fire service. The Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) Chairperson, Roger Flavell said this week's celebration is a chance to recognise and thank these volunteers.

"CAVFA represents over 250,000 volunteer fire fighters nationwide and they are the lifeblood of our fire services coming from all ages, walks of life and cultural backgrounds.

"However, what they all have in common is a dedication and commitment to ensuring our community is safer for our families, friends and loved ones.

"These volunteer fire fighters enjoy nothing more than giving back to society and if you monetized the unpaid hours, it would equate to millions of dollars worth of time, labour and expertise.

"This is not something to be taken for granted and on behalf of the Council, I would like to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to all volunteer fire fighters, across all agencies nation-wide, for your contribution.

"We at CAVFA will continue to work in your best interest and advocate on issues that affect your volunteer service so you can get on with the job doing what you do best, protecting our community."

This year, *National Volunteer Week* falls along the week 9-4 May 2017 with the theme 'Give Happy, Live Happy'.

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Additional information:

The Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) is an alliance of 11 volunteer fire brigade associations within Australia. The Council was established to give volunteer fire-fighters a united voice in representations with government and key stakeholders.