



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Businessline

Action Required: Note updates to DRCA ADF Firefighter provisions regarding oesophageal cancer eligibility.

To: Clients' Benefits Division (CBD) Business Improvement for distribution to CBD delegates

For information:

Secretary
Deputy President
Deputy Secretary – Veteran & Family Services Group
Deputy Secretary – Enabling Service and Commemorations Group
Repatriation Commissioner
Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner
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General Counsel
Chief Health Officer
Principal Medical Advisor Compensation

SUBJECT: Updates to DRCA ADF Firefighter Scheme

Purpose: To advise of changes to the DRCA simplifying presumptive acceptance of liability for prescribed medical conditions in veterans with service as an ADF Firefighter.

Key Points:

- Subsection 7(8) of the DRCA has been amended to reduce the qualifying period of employment as an ADF firefighter required to be presumptively taken to have made a significant contribution to oesophageal cancers from 25 years to 15 years.
- Subsection 7(9)(a) of the DRCA has been amended to no longer require that firefighting form a 'substantial' part of a person's duties over the period, rather, that it only be a 'not insubstantial' part of their duties for the deeming provisions to be applicable.

Background:

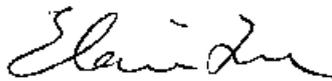
The *Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures #2) Act 2023* received Royal Assent on 28 June 2023. This Act amends Section 7(8) and Section 7(9)(a) of the DRCA.

The purpose of these changes is to bring firefighter entitlements under the DRCA into line with recent amendments to the SRCA, and to improve access to the ADF Firefighter Scheme.

It is anticipated that further conditions for Firefighters will be added via the DRCA Regulations later in 2023.

Further Information:

Information on the ADF Firefighter Scheme in CLIK has been updated and can be found in [Chapter 22 of the SRCA Liability Manual](#).



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