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## BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

<b>Subject</b>	<b>National Volunteer Week - Visit to Paekakariki Volunteer Fire Brigade</b>		
<b>Event Date</b>	Monday 17 June 2019 7.15pm – 8.30pm		
<b>Date of Briefing</b>	11 June 2019	<b>Ref.</b>	BR 19-35
<b>Priority</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent		




### Purpose

This event note provides background information for Minister Martin's visit to Paekakariki Volunteer Fire Brigade and the announcement of six initial volunteer Reward and Recognition initiatives.



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**Run sheet**

<b>Date</b>	Monday 17 June 2019
<b>Time</b>	7.15pm – 8.30pm
<b>Location</b>	Paekakariki Fire Station, 31 Tilley Rd, Paekakariki
<b>Activity</b>	<p>Run plan for the event:</p> <p>7.15pm Arrive Paekakariki Fire Station</p> <p>7.20 Meet and greet</p> <p>7.25 Introduction by Paul Swain</p> <p>7.30 <b>Thank</b> Fire and Emergency volunteers, their families and whānau for their commitment to their communities, and <b>announce</b> initial Volunteer Reward and Recognition package initiatives</p> <p>7.40 BBQ supper and mingle</p> <p>8.00 Tour of station</p> <p>8.30 Close</p>
<b>Expected number of attendees</b>	<p>50–70 guests expected, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paekakariki volunteers and their families</li> <li>• Te Horo volunteers and Paraparaumu operational support</li> <li>• Paraparaumu duty crew</li> <li>• Board Chair (Paul Swain)</li> <li>• Fire and Emergency executive leadership team members</li> <li>• Fire and Emergency regional management</li> <li>• NHO support personnel</li> </ul>
<b>Key attendees</b>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>Paul Swain, Board Chair Fire and Emergency New Zealand</p> </div> </div> <p>Executive Leadership Team</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;">  <div> <p>Brendan Nally, DCE People</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;">  <div> <p>Kerry Gregory, DCE Service Delivery</p> </div> </div>

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	Paekakariki Brigade Paul Furfie, Chief Fire Officer
<b>Political attendees</b>	Minister for Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Tracey Martin Other ministerial team members (tbc)
<b>Media</b>	Media will receive embargoed copies of the announcement and local media are likely to attend.
<b>Key contact on the day</b>	Name: Lisa Thomson, Integration Communications Manager Mob: 9(2)(a) Email: 9(2)(a)@fireandemergency.nz
<b>Equipment needed</b>	Comfortable clothes and covered flat shoes

#### Event – brief description

- This event is to:
  - thank Fire and Emergency volunteers, their family and whānau for their contributions to keeping our communities safe from harm
  - announce the initial package of six reward and recognition initiatives for our volunteers.
- Following the announcement there will be a BBQ and time to mix and mingle with volunteers and families, followed by a guided tour of the station.

#### About the initiatives

Initial Initiatives	Context and Commentary
<p><b>An out-of-pocket annual expense reimbursement</b></p> <p>An annual \$300 'out of pocket' expense reimbursement paid to all volunteers each year.</p>	<p>Volunteering is not always cost neutral and it is not always possible to compensate volunteers for each expense they incur.</p> <p>The new annual out-of-pocket expense reimbursement will compensate volunteers for ad hoc costs that they may incur from their volunteer activities throughout the year.</p> <p>It supports volunteer retention and recognises commitment.</p>
<p><b>A family support payment</b></p> <p>Payment of a family/whānau allowance of \$50 per night (on request), to support families and whānau when volunteers have to be away overnight for training.</p>	<p>Designed to recognise the inconvenience for a member of a volunteer's family/whānau when training.</p> <p>Paid as a flat rate and is not intended as a replacement for received employment income or reimbursement. Addresses our research findings about the financial and non-financial impact on families and whānau of volunteers attending training courses.</p>

Initial Initiatives	Context and Commentary
<p><b>An Employer Promotion Scheme in addition to the current Employer Recognition Programme</b></p> <p>Acknowledgement of employers' contribution and commitment to volunteers</p>	<p>Provides resources and budget for regular and on-going public promotion of our volunteers' employers and of self-employed volunteers, at a local and national level. For example, one day per month on local radio, newspaper and community avenues.</p>
<p><b>Provision of discounts through the Frequent Values web-based service</b></p> <p>Frequent Values will provide volunteers access to product and service discounts as a Fire and Emergency volunteer.</p>	<p>Provision of an online benefits platform with a range of discounts.</p> <p>Frequent Values will provide a 'One stop shop' for information about new and existing benefits and discounts available.</p>
<p><b>Access to local discounts from Fire and Emergency suppliers</b></p> <p>Providing volunteers with access to supplier discounts.</p>	<p>Discounts on day-to-day expenses to be negotiated with Fire and Emergency suppliers.</p>
<p><b>Promotion of health insurance options</b></p> <p>Access to health insurance.</p>	<p>Provide access for volunteers to a health insurance scheme.</p> <p>Volunteers feel that it is hard to get health insurance because of the nature of the work.</p>

### Talking points

#### Acknowledgements

#### 3. Individuals to acknowledge in opening speech:

- Paul Swain, Board Chair Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Paekakariki Volunteer Fire Brigade for inviting me to join you this evening
- Volunteers from Te Horo and Paekakariki brigades, and family and whānau, for making time to be here tonight
- Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery Kerry Gregory and DCE, People Brendan Nally
- Other Fire and Emergency personnel

#### Addressing the issues

I know that Fire and Emergency volunteers are a passionate and committed group of people.

Today, over 11,800 Fire and Emergency volunteers serve their communities around New Zealand. You're first to the scene at over 31,000 incidents each year, and are just as likely to attend motor vehicle accidents or medical emergencies as you are to attend a fire.

Just as you're here for us when we need you, we want to be there for you, making it easier for you to do your role in your communities.

So it's only right that today, as part of National Volunteer Week, I recognise the vital part that volunteers play in making our communities safe. Thank you for your service, and thanks also to your whānau and your employers who help make this possible.

The recently released Fire and Emergency Volunteerism Strategy highlights the need to provide relevant and meaningful recognition for volunteers, their families and whānau, and employers. All contribute hugely to keeping our communities safe. Our legislation identified funding structures and programmes to deliver better support for volunteers, families and whānau, and employers as a priority for the new organisation.

That's why I'm proud to be announcing a package of volunteer support initiatives that's worth \$4 million-a-year. This package extends our recognition of the value of the contribution that you continue to make, and acknowledges the role of your whānau and employers in supporting you.

#### ***Announcing the six initiatives***

Tonight I am announcing the first six initiatives in this package:

1. An annual out-of-pocket expense reimbursement of \$300.
  - Volunteering is not always cost neutral and it is not always possible to compensate you for each expense you incur.
  - The new annual reimbursement will compensate you for some of the ad hoc costs that you may incur during your volunteer activities throughout the year.
2. A whānau support payment for when you are away from home for training.
  - The payment of a family/whānau allowance of \$50 per night (on request) recognises the additional impact on your family/whānau when you are away training.
3. Discounts on everyday costs through a web-based service.
  - As a Fire and Emergency volunteer, access to the Frequent Values website will provide you with a range of product and service discounts.
4. Access to local discounts from Fire and Emergency suppliers.
  - As a Fire and Emergency volunteer, access to discounts on day-to-day expenses, to be negotiated with Fire and Emergency suppliers
5. Access to health insurance options.
  - As I understand that you can find it hard to get health insurance because of the nature of your work.
6. An Employer Promotion Scheme to complement Fire and Emergency's current Employer Recognition Programme.

- Direct financial compensation for employers and self-employed volunteers would be extremely complicated, but greater employer promotion provides a real and tangible alternative.
- The Employer Promotion Scheme provides resources and budget for regular and on-going public promotion of our volunteers' employers and of self-employed volunteers, at a local and national level – for example, promoting employers of volunteers for one day per month on local radio, in newspapers and other community avenues.

There will be more details about these and further initiatives announced over the coming months.

[Thank you]

[Segue to bite to eat from the BBQ]

**General information about Paekakariki Fire Brigade**

Formed in 1945, Paekakariki Volunteer Fire Brigade has been serving the Kapiti Coast for almost 75 years.

The brigade comprises 22 operational staff, all of whom live in Paekakariki. From a range of backgrounds and ages, the longest serving member [REDACTED] has been serving in the brigade for over 35 years.

The station has been in its current location (adjacent to the railway station for the last 40 years).

**Press release**

Will be sent separately to your office.

**Contact details**

For organisational issues around the Minister's attendance	Name: Lisa Thomson Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@fireandemergency.nz
For the speechwriter to make contact, if required, to discuss content and elicit further information	Name: Helen Kana Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@fireandemergency.nz
Who will meet the Minister at the venue (mobile number, and landline number for the venue if possible)	Name: Paul Furfie Tel: Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@fireandemergency.nz
Often photographs are taken during the Minister's visit. If the Minister's staff take any photos, we would be grateful to receive copies.	Name: Lisa Thomson Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@fireandemergency.nz

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