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## **INTRODUCING AN AFAC PROFESSIONALISATION SCHEME**

AFAC Council at its April 2011 meeting agreed to undertake preliminary consultation within its member agencies and key stakeholders. The consultation is designed to determine:

- *Stakeholder views on the need for a Fire and Emergency Service Professionalisation Scheme, and*
- *The degree to which there is a willingness by the sector to engage in such a Scheme*

It is important to note that fire and emergency service work is already highly respected in the community and by all those who work in the sector. Fire and emergency service workers are extremely professional in their approach to supporting their communities and each other. Considering a Professionalisation Scheme seeks to formally recognise the valuable contribution they make to public safety.

As well as explaining what is meant by a Professionalisation Scheme this consultation will be seeking input on why such a Scheme might be needed. Also, importantly the consultation seeks to obtain views on the following questions:

1. Do you think that fire and emergency service work should be an officially recognised and certified profession, and if so how important is this?
2. What opportunities and benefit do you believe you would get from such a Scheme?
3. How do you think it would benefit the community?
4. How would it assist the Sector into the future?
5. What are the barriers to a successful scheme? How might they be overcome?

Once all the consultation has been collated, the AFAC Council will be reviewing the results at its August meeting and deciding what the next course of action should be.

AFAC intends to engage with the following stakeholders as part of its consultation:

- All AFAC member agencies
- Volunteer Associations
- Industrial Bodies
- State Government Departments
- Federal Government Departments
- Education and Research Providers
- Other Professional Associations

The consultation phase will finish early August, so comments and feedback between now and then is strongly encouraged. If you want to be involved, keep an eye out for a focus group opportunity within your agency or undertake the survey or join the on-line discussion.

### ***Transforming an Occupation into a Profession***

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