



Tasmania
Fire Service

**FIREFIGHTER EXCHANGE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**INFORMATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS
FROM OVERSEAS OR INTERSTATE**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE FIREFIGHTER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The TFS Firefighter Exchange Fellowship Program has been running since 1994 with over 14 firefighters taking the opportunity to spend time in an overseas or Australian fire service.

Returning firefighters always comment on the valuable experiences they have whilst on exchange. As the international and national fire service communities embrace exchanges as part of staff development, practices are being refined to make the programs run smoothly.

As valuable as the program is, applicants need to consider all aspects of the exchange before committing to the program. The application process is extensive and complex. In addition to the challenge of finding a suitable exchange partner, your own fire service will have a selection process to ensure you will represent them in a professional manner and will be able to add value to your role upon your return, based on what you have learned for your experience.

Having said that, if you are dedicated, professional, flexible, and lucky enough to be successful in your exchange application, the memories and experience gained from the exchange will remain with you for your lifetime.

To apply for the exchange program, you will need to apply directly to a participating fire service. Whilst you may apply to more than one service, each will have a separate application form based on their unique requirements. Most participating services will have their application form, or a suitable contact, listed on their website. Websites are included in this information pack.

To assist you in selecting a fire service, you will find in this booklet an overview of the participating agency and a little about the demographics of the area.

As a general rule, to participate in the program, you will need to complete a comprehensive application form with your Fire Service. This form will cover details such as your current role and prior experience, the accommodation you are offering for the exchange (including pictures), and general domestic/personal information, such as accompanying family members.

In the application form, you will also find comprehensive information about the exchange. This information sits within the application form, as it may vary slightly between fire agencies. There is a general Q&A section at the end of this booklet which should answer most questions.

As part of the exchange process, you will also need to complete an Exchange Agreement Deed, which secures your formal commitment to the exchange.

Have a read through this document including the question and answer section. We hope you find the inspiration to pursue your application.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND LOCAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) *Melbourne, Australia*

Located in Melbourne, Victoria, the MFB provides fire and emergency response in metropolitan Melbourne. Most fire incidents are structural, with firefighters providing occasional support in long campaign bushfires. The MFB also deal with emergency medical response, often being the first on scene. The area served by the MFB covers more than 1,000 square kilometers incorporating Melbourne's central business district, its inner and middle suburbs and part of Port Phillip Bay. The MFB is responsible for protecting some three million residents, workers, and visitors, and in excess of \$200 billion in assets and vital community infrastructure, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The MFB employs approximately 2,000 staff, with over 1,600 career firefighters providing community protection, education services, and emergency response from 47 strategically located fire stations and specialist departments.

www.mfb.vic.gov.au

For application details contact: firefighterexchange@mfb.vic.gov.au

Victoria is Australia's second smallest state, approximately the same size as the British Isles. It is in the south east corner of the Australian mainland, yet despite its size, it has a diverse range of landscapes, from sweeping coastline and pristine beaches, to national parks and forests, wineries, lakes and mountains offering skiing, climbing and hiking. Due to the size of Victoria, many of these varied landscapes are easily accessible as day trips from Melbourne.

Despite its small size, the Victorian climate varies across the state. The north is much drier and has warmer weather than the south. Australia's seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere. The climate can be characterised as warm to hot in summer (December to February), mild in autumn (March to May), cold and damp in winter (June to August), and cool in spring (September to November).

Melbourne is Victoria's capital city. The city is situated on the banks of the Yarra River, and extends around Port Phillip Bay. Melbourne is renowned for its restaurants, shopping and events and festivals. It is a cosmopolitan city, with an easy to follow road network and accessible public transport facilities, including trams to take you around the city.

Melbourne is host to many international events such as the Formula One Grand Prix, Melbourne Cup and the Australian Open tennis championship.

For further information visit

www.visitvictoria.com

www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW)
Sydney, New South Wales

With its primary base in Sydney, the NSWFB is one of the world's largest urban fire and rescue services. The NSWFB respond to and manage fire emergencies in New South Wales' major cities and towns. The service responds to rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and possible terrorism activities across the State. The NSWFB also work with other government agencies to minimise the impact of bushfires, storms, floods, landslides, building collapses, motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies. Community safety is of paramount concern, along with the responsibility for prevention and preparedness programs designed to prevent these emergencies and reduce their impact on the community.

The NSWFB employs approximately 3400 full time and 3300 part time firefighters across 339 Brigades. Outside Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Wagga Wagga, Lismore, and Coffs Harbour all form part of the urban fire station network in the country.

www.fire.nsw.gov.au

New South Wales sits on the central east coast of Australia. Both northern and southern NSW are known for their beaches and are host to some of the most popular Australian holiday destinations, such as Port Macquarie and Byron Bay. With beaches, wine regions, the Snowy Mountains for winter activities, and with its borders on three states, there is much to see and do here.

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and the most populous Australian city. Famous for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House, it is a beautiful city located right on the Sydney Harbour. Sydney is one of the most multicultural cities in the world. It is a vibrant and lively city, surrounded by beautiful beaches, lush hinterland, national parks and mountains, and is often voted one of the world's most liveable cities.

For further information visit

www.visitnsw.com

www.sydneyaustralia.com

New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS)
Wellington, New Zealand

The New Zealand Fire Service is the sole fire agency in New Zealand. With 436 stations, 1707 paid firefighters and 7500 volunteers, it is a large service covering diverse terrains and response. As well as fighting fires, firefighters with the NZFS will carry out extrications and rescues, contain hazardous substance spills, attend motor vehicle accidents, apply first aid and provide assistance during natural disasters.

www.fire.org.nz

For application details contact: Zoe.Cameron@fire.org.nz

New Zealand packs a lot into a small country. One of the world's youngest countries, it has pristine beaches, spectacular mountains and pastoral land that stretches for thousands of miles. Made up of two main islands (and smaller ones), it is one of the most popular international holiday destinations, with more than 2.3 million international tourists each year. New Zealand is approximately the same size as California. The seasons are the same as in Australia, however, in general, temperatures are slightly lower.

Wellington is home to the head office of the fire service. Wellington is New Zealand's capital city, set on the edge of a harbour and surrounded by hills. Summer has an average temperature of about 20.3°C (69F) and Winter averages a maximum of 11.3° (52F). It is important to note that the NZFS covers all of New Zealand, and therefore an exchange location will be based on your exchange partner. If you have a preference for a certain part of New Zealand, you will need to identify this on your application, but it could limit your chance of a successful match.

For further information visit

www.newzealand.com

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, (QFES)
Brisbane, Queensland

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is a division of the Queensland Government Department of Emergency Services and is the primary provider of fire and rescue services throughout Queensland.

While firefighters are best known for turning out to fires in homes, buildings or in the bush, the QFRS provides a vast range of other fire and rescue services including rescue, chemical and hazardous material management, community awareness and education, fire scene investigation, and commercial training in fire related areas.

The QFRS provides these services in addition to responding to fires in homes, buildings, vehicles and on the land, and maintaining maximum operational preparedness of staff and fire and rescue equipment.

QFRS employs 4,330 paid firefighters and 44,134 Volunteers.

www.qfes.qld.gov.au

For application details contact: fstemm@emergency.qld.gov.au

Queensland is in Australia's northeast corner, however spans from the middle of the east coast right up and around the most northern tip of the main continent. Queensland is known as Australia's sunshine state due to its temperate climate. Due to the size of the state temperatures vary, however in the capital city, Brisbane, the average temperature ranges from 29°C in summer and 20°C in winter. Queensland is Australia's second largest state, and the third most populated.

Queensland information continued

Queensland is known for the beauty of its beaches, lush rainforests, and tropical islands. It is a favourite holiday destination for Australian and overseas tourists alike. Brisbane is Queensland's capital, and its largest city. It is located in the southern part of the state, on the banks of a river, and is a vibrant and growing city. As with New Zealand, whilst the head office of the fire service is in Brisbane, the location for a successful exchange may depend on the location of the exchange partner.

For more information visit

www.qld.gov.au

www.about-australia.com/queensland

South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS)
Adelaide, South Australia

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is the primary provider of structural firefighting services to the State of South Australia. The MFS was established in 1867. The MFS is based in the city of Adelaide, population approximately 1.2 million, and the capital of South Australia. The MFS is a fully professional organization, recognized for excellence of service provision and employees more than 1000 staff across 36 stations (19 metropolitan and 17 regional) in South Australia.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

For application details contact: howard.greg@samfs.sa.gov.au

South Australia covers the southern central coast line of the Australian continent, bordering all other Australian mainland States.

South Australia is predominantly arid or semi-arid with several low mountain ranges. Whilst it is Australia's third largest state, it has only the fifth highest population. South Australia's coast follows the Southern Ocean and has some magnificent coastline scenery. The average summer temperature is 29°C (84F) and winter is 15°C (59F). It is usually very dry.

Adelaide, South Australia's capital, is known for its historical architecture and cultural attractions. Adelaide is very easy to get around with a good network of buses. Traffic is rarely difficult to negotiate and the city is set on a grid-like pattern, making navigation easy.

For more information visit:

www.southaustralia.com
www.southoz.com

Tasmania Fire Service (TFS)
Hobart, Tasmania

The Tasmania Fire Service includes over 230 brigades, employing approximately 250 full-time firefighters and approximately 4,800 volunteers. TFS is a dynamic and diverse organisation undertaking emergency response, emergency call handling and dispatch, fire investigation, training, community fire education, building safety, fire equipment sales and service, building and maintaining TFS vehicles, maintaining a state-wide communications network, and fire alarm monitoring. Emergency capabilities include the capacity to respond to structural fires and bushfires, as well as Hazardous Material incidents (HAZMAT), Chemical, Biological and Radiological incidents (CBR), Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), and High Angle Rescue Teams (HART).

www.fire.tas.gov.au

For enquiries contact: stewart.mckinlay@fire.tas.gov.au

Tasmania is Australia's only island state. It is one of the world's most mountainous islands, yet also includes lush valleys, uncrowded towns and villages and large tracts of wilderness and coastline. Summer temperatures are usually between 17 and 23°C (62 and 73F), and winter between 3 and 11°C (37 and 51F).

The state's capital, Hobart, is situated on the Derwent River. Hobart offers the benefits of city living without the traffic jams, pollution, crime and overcrowding of larger cities. It only takes 15 minutes to drive from the city centre to the airport and 15 minutes to drive from the city centre to the rainforest trails of Mt Wellington. Hobart has Australia's oldest theatre, a world-class concert hall, cinemas, galleries, and a thriving arts community.

For more information visit:

www.discovertasmania.com

www.development.tas.gov.au/migration/living.html