

## Bushfires: A Message from the Secretary

Dear Member,

Australia is reeling from monstrous and unprecedented bushfires.

Thousands have lost their homes; others have laid down their lives to protect others.

My heart goes out to those members who have been personally affected by these fires.

We know that HSU members have been in fire-prone areas, and we share your pain.

We also know that HSU members have been heroically helping to defend lives and properties, whether in your capacity as health workers, or volunteering as part of the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

Our Union is an organisation based on mutual support. Put simply, we look out for each other.

The HSU's Outbound Call Centre is in the process of contacting over 4,000 members in bushfire-affected areas to check in and offer support. However, if you need assistance, **please don't wait to be called**. Get in contact and the HSU will do everything it can to support members who are struggling in the wake of the fires.

You can call HSU Head Office on 1300 478 679 or email [info@hsu.asn.au](mailto:info@hsu.asn.au).

The HSU's Branch Committee of Management will be convening a special meeting to determine how the Union can offer meaningful assistance to those members who may have been impacted.

Assistant Secretary Lynne Russell, President Mark Sterrey and I will also be visiting worksites in affected areas to hear directly from members how the Union can help you in these tough times. Conditions permitting, this will take place **in the week beginning 20 January**. Members in these areas will be advised of dates and times of visits.

Lastly, I have a message for members who may be having difficulty processing the magnitude of this tragedy. **It will not be easy, but we will rebuild.**

As long as we look out for each other, we will recover from this terrible loss.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD