

HELPING FIREFIGHTERS THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

Many brigade members and their families in unexpected hardship have been assisted by the UFBA Benevolent Fund over the last 26 years

What is the Benevolent Fund?

Set up with a Trust Deed in 1990, the UFBA Benevolent Fund provides assistance to firefighters and their families who are going through unexpected tough times financially or who have suffered misfortune in their lives.

Brigades contribute \$5 per member per annum to the fund. The UFBA Benevolent Fund is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2005.

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund consider every application on a case-by-case basis and make decisions regarding assistance accordingly.

Who can apply for help?

Any member of the UFBA—volunteer, paid, rural, urban, industrial or defence—can apply for assistance from the UFBA Benevolent Fund.

Benevolent Fund Chairman **Alan Cockburn** encourages brigades to remember the fund is there to assist their own membership in times of genuine hardship or need.

"Should a member need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the UFBA office," Alan says.

"It's a credit to the brigades who recognise members in dire need and act quickly in contacting the UFBA family for assistance."

In the 12 months to 30 June 2016, the UFBA Benevolent Fund allocated a total of \$44,000 in ex gratia payments to members in need

What kind of help is available?

Every application is considered by the Trustees on the facts of the situation.

Recent instances where grants have been made include:

- Extra travel or accommodation costs required by family members following a severe injury or illness
- Accommodation, food and clothing needed immediately after a house fire.

Making a difference

From a Volunteer Fire Brigade ...

"I had a member of our brigade that fell ill and required emergency surgery, after the surgery the recovery period was long and stressful. I made a phone call to the UFBA and spoke in full confidence with Jane about the situation ... I was blown away about how willing to help they are and it really made me feel as if we were all part of a big family. The funding that our member received was so important and removed all the stress about bills and allowed them to focus on family and recovery. I urge anyone out there that needs help to get in touch with the UFBA and reach out."

How to apply for assistance from the UFBA Benevolent Fund

- Download the Benevolent Fund Application Form on the UFBA website at www.ufba.org.nz/member_services/benevolent_fund
- The Chief Fire Officer of your brigade must complete and sign the application—give as much information as possible about the situation
- Send the completed and signed application to the UFBA office
- The UFBA Chief Executive Officer may ask for more details before circulating the application to the Benevolent Fund Trustees for consideration
- The Trustees forward their recommendations to the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund, who coordinates the final decision
- UFBA will then let the applicant know the outcome of their application
- Approved payments are made directly to the family—the Benevolent Fund does not give to fundraising websites such as Givealittle.

For more information, please contact UFBA Membership Support Manager **Jane Davie** by phone on 04 237 2683, 0274 428 655 or email jane@ufba.org.nz