

**FIREFIGHTERS HELPING FIREFIGHTERS IN NEED**

**PURPOSE OF THE FUND**

The UFBA Benevolent Fund was established to assist UFBA fire brigade members and their families who are facing **serious financial hardship**. Its funds come from a levy on brigades which are members of the Association, and from financial investments. So, it is really firefighters helping firefighters who are in financial hardship.

It is important to remember that the Fund is **need** driven. A situation which causes financial problems for one brigade member might not have the same effect on another. The Fund should not be thought of as an insurance policy where regular fees are paid and when an agreed-to event takes place, a claim is made.

**HOW THE FUND IS MANAGED**

The Fund is managed by a group of Trustees who are all serving, or retired brigade members, appointed by the UFBA Board. Currently, they are:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **ROLE IN TRUST** | **ROLE IN UFBA/FENZ** |
| Alan Cockburn QFSM, JP | Chairman | UFBA Past PresidentRetired Chief Fire Officer - New Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Ray Topia MNZM, JP | Trustee | UFBA Past PresidentRetired Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the Kamo Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Graeme Booth MNZM | Trustee | UFBA Past PresidentChief Fire Officer – Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Alan Burgess MNZM | Trustee | UFBA Past PresidentChief Fire Officer – Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Bryan Styles QSM | Trustee | UFBA Past PresidentChief Fire Officer – Carterton Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Mike Allen | Trustee | UFBA PresidentSenior Firefighter – Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Amber Hollis | Trustee | UFBA Vice PresidentSenior Firefighter – Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Bill Butzbach | Secretary | UFBA Chief ExecutiveLife Honorary Member – Martinborough Volunteer Fire Brigade |

**MAKING AN APPLICATION**

Applications to the Fund must be made by the Chief Fire Officer or Officer-in-Charge of the Brigade. The Trustees rely on the Chief Fire Officer or Officer-in-Charge to attest to the financial hardship of the possible recipient.

**APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS.**

An application form is available on the UFBA website at: <http://www.ufba.org.nz/member_services/benevolent_fund>

While each application is treated on its merits, the circumstances the Trustees consider include:

* What has happened? (e.g., expenses associated with serious illness)
* Does the brigade member have the financial resources to cope with what has happened?
* Is there any other assistance available? (e.g., from government departments, insurance policies, savings etc)

The application should be emailed to benevolentfund@ufba.org.nz or posted to the UFBA Office at PO Box 56079, Tawa, Wellington 5249.

**PROCESS OF ASSESSING APPLICATIONS**

A check is made to ensure the application has all the required information. Once complete, the application is emailed to Trustees. The Trustees independently assess each claim and decide if it fits the criteria and if it does, recommend how much financial support the Fund will give. A final decision is then made by the Chairman.

**WHERE WE CANNOT ASSIST**

**Retrospective Applications**

We cannot assist with applications made for retrospective expenditure.

**Medication not covered by Pharmac**

From time to time, we receive applications where the cost of treatments required by a member is significant. In the interests of equity to all members, it is not possible to provide a grant to cover or contribute large sums to these requests, even though the application is sound.

Our approach to distribution of grants is very carefully considered by a panel of experienced and compassionate trustees with experience in the operation of fire brigades.

**Funeral Assistance**

The Benevolent Fund is not a funeral fund. We encourage members to be prepared and obtain funeral insurance.

**QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding the Benevolent Fund can be directed to Jane Davie, email jane@ufba.org.nz or phone 04 237 2683 or 0274 428 655.

**All applications to the Fund are treated with extreme confidence.**