



## UFBA BENEVOLENT FUND

### 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 that are members of the Association, and from financial investments. So, it is really firefighters helping firefighters who are in significant financial hardship.

It is important to remember that the Fund is **need-driven**. A situation that 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:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Chairman Alan Burgess MNZM | UFBA Past President, CFO Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade                 |
| Trustee Graeme Booth MNZM  | UFBA Past President, CFO Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade                 |
| Trustee Bryan Styles QSM   | UFBA Past President, CFO Carterton Volunteer Fire Brigade                 |
| Trustee Amber Hollis       | UFBA Past President, Rural Crew Leader Dunstan Volunteer Fire Brigade     |
| Trustee Ross Ditmer QSM    | UFBA Past President, Life Honorary Member Rangiora Volunteer Fire Brigade |
| Trustee                    | Current UFBA President  |
| Trustee                    | Current UFBA Vice President   |
| Ex-Officio Member          | George Verry  |
| Secretary                  | Current UFBA CEO  |

#### WHERE DO THE FUNDS COME FROM?

Brigades that are members of the UFBA pay an annual subscription fee of \$8 per member per annum into the Fund. (We also accept applications from Brigade Life Honorary Members and UFBA Life Honorary Members).

In situations of natural disasters e.g., the Christchurch earthquakes, Fire and Emergency New Zealand has generously supported the Fund.

## **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. Where the intended recipient is the Chief Fire Officer or Officer-in-Charge, the application must be made by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, FENZ Group Manager, or District Manager.

**APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS OR THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BY THE BRIGADE.**

An application form is available on the UFBA website at:  
[http://www.ufba.org.nz/member\\_services/benevolent\\_fund](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](mailto: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 the 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 ARE UNABLE TO ASSIST**

### **Retrospective Applications**

We are unable to assist with applications made for retrospective expenditure.

### **Medication not covered by Pharmac**

From time to time, we receive applications where the cost of additional medical treatment required outside of government-funded treatment by a member is significant. In the interests of equity for 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 the distribution of grants is very carefully considered by a panel of experienced and compassionate trustees with experience in the operation of fire brigades.

### **Private Medical Procedures**

We are not able, in the majority of circumstances, to fund private medical procedures or treatment.

### **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](mailto:jane@ufba.org.nz) or phone 0274 428 655.

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