

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 9:20:16 AM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as Emergency services personnel

Submission type I am making a personal submission

Organisation making the submission (if applicable) state emergency service

Consent to make submission public I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story I'm a volunteer member of the state emergency service.

In the lead up and during the floods I was asked to consider deploying to the northern Rivers to assist with the response.

I work in a small business on a casual basis. I would have gladly deployed but it was not financially possible for me to do so.

I know a number of other emergency services members who are continually forced to make the choice between assisting their communities or earning income to provide for their families. Most times the choice is they can not afford to take unpaid leave from their jobs.

Living in Sydney and other parts of NSW is expensive. Volunteer members have mortgages and rent to pay.

Larger business can afford to offer their staff paid emergency services leave. Small business can not. Casual employees are not given any paid leave entitlements.

I would ask this inquiry to recommend a paid emergency leave supplement for emergency services volunteers who do not have access to paid emergency services leave through their employer. This leave could be capped at 14 days per year.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

1.2 Preparation and planning

Volunteer emergency service workers are forced to make a choice between earning an income or assisting their communities. Many emergency service workers who work for small businesses or are casual employees do not have access to paid emergency services leave. (Large business/government employees have access to paid emergency servve leave).

This means most volunteers without paid leave can not afford to deploy for full days or multiple days to assist NSW communities in northern Rivers.

This significantly reduces the volunteer resources available to assist with disasters and other emergencies such as the Northern Rivers floods.

I would ask this inquiry to recommend a paid emergency leave supplement for emergency services volunteers who do not have access to paid emergency services leave through their employer. This leave could be capped at 14 days per year.

1.6 Any other matters

I would ask this inquiry to recommend a paid emergency leave supplement for emergency services volunteers who do not have access to paid emergency services leave through their employer. This leave could be capped at 14 days per year.

This will increase the volunteer resources available to assist in emergencies as volunteers will not have to choose between paying their mortgage/rent or responding to help their communities.

Supporting documents or images
