

media release

SA Country Fire Service
SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Pacific Island firefighters welcomed to Adelaide Conference

Monday, 1 September 2008

Amongst more than one thousand delegates taking part in the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference starting in Adelaide today, will be 35 participants from Pacific Island countries.

The representatives from Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, American Samoa, Vanuatu, Nauru, Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea will be involved in a week-long program including the annual general meeting of the Pacific Islands Fire Services Association (PIFSA).

The Chief Fire Officer of the Papua New Guinea Fire Service and PIFSA President Isaac Silas has been instrumental in the establishment of the Association with the support of South Australia's MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton and AFAC.

"The partnership and support through other agencies including the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) has also provided PIFSA with a platform to develop its fire fighting capabilities," Mr Lupton said.

"Underpinning the AFAC/PIFSA partnership is the principle that AFAC will mentor and guide PIFSA through a process of establishing itself as a sustainable representative network," he said.

"It's also a network that's self sufficient and an influential contributor to the fire and emergency services capacity within the Pacific."

As part of the AFAC Conference, the PIFSA Constitution will be formalised and an agreement reached for a Strategic Directions plan.

The AFAC conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 1-3 September 2008.

For details on the full program including speakers, topics and schedules visit the conference website at www.fire2008.org