

Hon Pete Malinauskas MLC

Minister for Emergency Services

Thursday, 1 June 2017

State's newest firefighters to graduate after applications double

Eighteen of South Australia's newest Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will graduate today, after contesting a competitive field of more than 2,200 applicants.

After launching its inaugural diversity in recruitment campaign last September and removing the requirement to have a truck licence at the time of applying, the MFS received 100 per cent more firefighter applications.

The diversity campaign saw culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) applicants jump from one per cent to 10 per cent, while applications from females have nearly tripled from 4.7 per cent to 12 per cent of all applicants.

This has translated to an 18 % success rate for CALD applicants and a 6 % success rate for female applicants in joining a recruit course in 2017.

The MFS is encouraged by the upward trend and is determined to continue building on the results, to ensure its workforce increasingly reflects the diversity of the community it serves.

It is anticipated that today's recruits will be the first of three courses of 18 recruits that will join the MFS as part of the latest recruitment intake.

The graduation is taking place from 1pm today at MFS HQ on Wakefield St.

Background

Today's graduates include; a former member of the Finnish Navy, a Sri-Lankan born musician, former Australian Light Horse and Artillery soldiers, an Army helicopter pilot, former personal trainers, and others who've worked in real estate, business development, carpentry, sports coaching, mining and education.

Graduates have completed a gruelling 15-week recruit course involving more than 700 hours of challenging physical training and attended in excess of 100 lectures.

Each recruit firefighter has the opportunity to expand their skills from operational firefighting and specialise during their careers into areas such as community education, fire cause investigation, Triple Zero (000) communications, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and management.

Two of today's graduates will be posted regionally to Pt Pirie MFS.

Quotes attributable to Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas

I'd like to congratulate each of our graduating recruit firefighters today, who have already achieved an incredible feat by being selected out of such a large field of more than 2,200 applicants.

I wish them well as they begin what will be very rewarding careers that will provide real value to South Australians.

It's pleasing to see that the MFS is attracting more applicants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, which will strengthen the organisation and the level of service they provide to the community.

Quotes attributable to SA Metropolitan Fire Service Chief Officer, Greg Crossman

I commend each of our 18 new firefighters who've worked hard to achieve a place in the recruit course and reach graduation. They've completed a demanding 15-week recruit course and will soon face their first operational firefighting shifts across metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia.

Our recruit firefighters are joining a professional fire service that protects up to 90 % of South Australia's population, property, infrastructure and assets. They are privileged to protect and serve their community.

The MFS remains committed to diversifying its workforce, and we urge more women and people with culturally diverse backgrounds to consider a firefighting career. We're encouraged by the results of our first diversity campaign and remain committed to pursuing a diversified workforce.