

Minister Tony Piccolo

Minister for Emergency Services

Friday, 1 May, 2015

South Australia Emergency Service Memorial: a chance to reflect

A representative committee from the emergency services sector will help establish an annual memorial service to honour South Australian personnel who have died on duty.

Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo said the proposed memorial will be held every 4 May from 2016 onwards.

"This is Saint Florian's Day, who is the Patron Saint of Firefighters, so it seems appropriate that this would be the day to recognise our fallen personnel," Mr Piccolo said.

"With the exception of the date of the memorial, the committee, which consists of staff and volunteers from the sector, will consult widely about the arrangement of the annual event.

"They will look at a variety of factors, such as a central location for a service to be held, before making recommendations. Regional locations will also be encouraged to hold their own corresponding memorial event on this day.

"Currently the services hold separate memorials on different days and places. This new service will allow everyone to reflect together and recognise those who have lost their lives whilst protecting their community."

The announcement of the South Australian committee and memorial comes on a day when a new annual national memorial service is being held in Canberra.

Mr Piccolo said the service is being held at the National Emergency Services Memorial on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

"South Australia is being represented by the Chief Officer of the CFS, Mr Greg Nettleton," he said.

"Today's national service is especially significant as we tragically lost two CFS volunteers in the line of duty last summer.

"To honour Mount Templeton brigade lieutenant Andrew Harrison and Deputy Group Officer of the Wattle Range Group Brian Johnston, members of their family will be presented with Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Memorial Medallions.

"Mr Harrison's wife Kellie and two sons, Thomas and Henry, along with Mr Johnston's sons, Daniel and Jeremy, will attend the memorial service to accept the medals.

"There have been 25 South Australian Emergency Services personnel who have died while serving their communities.

"We must not forget about the families left behind, as well as the ongoing commitment by our Emergency Services personnel.

“Having an annual memorial service in South Australia after the National Memorial Day will mean South Australians can participate in one or both services.

“Western Australia already has a memorial day on 4 May and I wrote to my interstate colleagues who suggested this would be an appropriate date.”

The Terms of Reference guiding the new committee and ongoing updates about the establishment of the new South Australian service will be available at www.safecom.sa.gov.au.