## **MEDIA RELEASE**



25 January 2022

## **CFS Foundation Provides Support Following Coles Fire Tragedy**

The CFS Foundation, now in its 21st year, has supported CFS volunteers and their families affected by the recent tragic incident that occurred on the Coles fireground near Lucindale.

Much loved and dedicated CFS volunteer Louise Hincks sadly lost her life in a tragic incident on 21 January 2022. Another volunteer was seriously injured and thankfully is expected to make a full recovery.

"No one knows when unforeseen incidents and tragedy will occur, but we have collectively shown time and again we can confront these challenges" said CFS Foundation Chairman, John Lynch OAM.

The CFS Foundation provides immediate cash grants to affected families following a loss and provides ongoing wellbeing support.

"We know from experience that these funds are critical when a loss occurs and can help ease some pressure on families during what may be the most difficult time in their lives," said John.

"The Foundation is able to respond in a practical and helpful way in the short-term and, importantly, also provide long-term care and assistance as people rebuild their lives following a tragedy."

John said "we are thankful to everyone who has donated to the CFS Foundation."

"This is why we exist – to provide support when CFS volunteers need us most – and we can only do what we do with the community behind us, so we sincerely thank you for entrusting us to help care for our brave men and women," said John.

"With our current efficient operating model, every dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly to supporting CFS volunteers, and that is something we are proud of and will work hard to maintain."

The CFS Foundation works alongside the CFS and the CFS Volunteers' Association to coordinate support to volunteers, with each organisation providing a separate but complementary function.

To donate to the CFS Foundation to directly help CFS volunteer firefighters, visit: <u>https://cfsfoundation.org.au/donate</u>

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