

IQ25-000116

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Inquiry into National Volunteer Incentive Scheme (Climate Army)

29 September 2025

QoN Number: 1

Subject: Key Focus Areas Identified for National Approach

Asked by: Senator Jacqui Lambie

Question:

Mr Moon: The first forum was held on 11 August. There have been a number of priorities that have been identified through that forum, to start to work on a national approach, and I can go through those priorities if you'd like me to.

Senator LAMBIE: I might get you to do that, but do you think you can provide a copy of those priorities to the committee, please?

Answer:

The six priority areas identified through the National Emergency Volunteering Strategy Forum are:

- Priority 1: Streamlining training, administrative and compliance requirements for volunteer registered training organisations.
 - Objective: Modernise training and compliance systems to reduce administrative burden, improve portability of skills, and support volunteer development.
- Priority 2: Insurance for Volunteers
 - Objective: Ensure all volunteers understand their insurance coverage and explore protections for informal and spontaneous volunteers.
- Priority 3: Reform to Honours and Awards
 - Objective: Create a fair and inclusive recognition system that values all volunteer contributions, not just frontline roles.
- Priority 4: Development of financial support or incentives for volunteers
 - Objective: Ensure volunteers are not financially disadvantaged for their service, while promoting recognition, retention, and employer engagement across both formal and informal emergency volunteering pathways.
- Priority 5: Examination of funding mechanisms to support informal volunteers, such as under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- Objective: Clarify cost recovery eligibility for informal volunteers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and other funding mechanisms, while improving support for community-led emergency response and recovery efforts.
- Priority 6: Surge Capability
 - Objective: Build a flexible, coordinated, and sustainable national approach to surge volunteering that enables rapid deployment of skilled volunteers across jurisdictions and includes diverse volunteer cohorts.

Further information on this national program of work is contained in National Volunteer Incentive Scheme (Climate Army) Submission 29 made by the NSW Premier's Department.