



MEDIA RELEASE

United Firefighters Union of Australia (SA Branch)

Wednesday March 30, 2011

South Australian Firefighters take Budget protest to Rundle Mall

South Australian firefighters will today be hitting Adelaide's busiest streets to protest about the State Government's Budget cuts.

They'll be handing out information to members of the public at the Adelaide Railway Station and up and down Rundle Mall this morning to let people know how they've been hit.

United Firefighters Union Industrial Officer Joe Szakacs (*pron. Sok - arch*) says nearly one thousand firefighters have had their negotiated working conditions attacked by the State Government in the last Budget.

"While our firefighters were doing their job at house fires and road accidents, the State Government snuck into Parliament and legislated away their working entitlements.

"Senior firefighters alone will lose more than \$1,600 every year.

"There is only one place to work if you're a professional firefighter in South Australia - and that's for the State Government.

"They are rightly angry that they've been treated this way by their bosses, and especially by a Labor Government who we trusted to do the right thing by working South Australians.

"This is just not the way to deal with your own staff who proudly risk their lives every day to protect our community."

The United Firefighters Union is involved in a wider campaign with other South Australian unions to reverse the State Government's budget cuts.

Note: Firefighters will be in Rundle Mall (Beehive Corner and Gawler Place) and the Adelaide Train Station from 8.30am.

To organize interviews, call Victoria Purman on 0438 808 799.