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## **Local Volunteers Recognised As Community Safety Heroes**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton congratulated local financial services company Mal Dobson and Associates on winning a 2009 Silver Award at the inaugural Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards for their contribution to keeping our community safe.

Dr Nahan said the awards to more than 70 employers from all over WA were the first of their kind in Australia and recognised the integral role employers of emergency services volunteers make to the safety of WA.

"Our community owes a lot to emergency services volunteers who make themselves available at all times of the day and night to help people in need," Dr Nahan said.

"Equally, we owe a lot to their employers because without their support and encouragement many volunteers would not be able to provide the emergency services that we so desperately rely on during times of strife."

Dr Nahan also praised self employed volunteers, such as local managing director Mal Dobson and his son Steve from Mal Dobson & Associates, for the business sacrifices they made by attending incidents during office hours.

"Mal Dobson not only runs his financial services company in Canning Vale, but he has been a volunteer with the Jandakot Bush Fire Brigade for the last nine years and has been Treasurer of that group for most of that period," said Dr Nahan.

"Steve, who is a financial planner with his father's company, has been involved even longer and is Captain of the Jandakot brigade. Mal and Steve donate their time to the community 24 hours a day and have found that their clients are very considerate if they are called out during work hours."

"During extraordinary circumstances, such as fires, cyclones, severe storms, floods and vehicle crashes, hundreds of employers allow their emergency services volunteers to take time off work to help the community. Employers also contribute in other ways by providing equipment, donating goods and services, and promoting volunteering.

"The value of the work that volunteers like Mal and Steve do within our local community is invaluable and definitely deserves recognition."

FESA supports 30,000 volunteers in WA including Bush Fire Service firefighters, Emergency Services cadets, State Emergency Service volunteers, Volunteer Emergency Service and Volunteer Fire Service volunteers, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service firefighters and Volunteer Marine Rescue Services volunteers. For further information please call the Volunteer Recruitment Information Line on 1800 628 141.

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