

JEFF SHRIMPTON

My name is Jeff Shrimpton and I am standing for Northern Branch President.

I am currently the Northern Branch President and was first elected onto the National Committee 2017.

I am a Senior Firefighter of 35 years based at Howick Fire Station in the Counties-Manukau and am currently the Auckland Local Vice President – and have been on the Local Committee since 2010.

As a Local representative I specialise in representing our members to make sure they are rehabilitated, compensation and defended. Many members in the Auckland Local know I advocate strongly for members to get them the support and care while protecting their job and income when they are recovering from an injury or dealing with an illness or mental health situation. Welfare is my passion.



In my role on the National Committee I have continued that focus pushing hard to improve better provisions and outcomes for those sick and injured. My goal is to have occupational cancer and mental health conditions recognised through presumptive legislation. We must get presumptive legislation across the line so that firefighters for generations to come can have their income and treatment protected through their rightful access to ACC.

As a cancer survivor myself I understand the impact it has on the person diagnosed, their family and their workmates. Diagnosis is tough and treatment can be tougher. Our members suffering with mental health conditions need strong advocates to ensure they get the support they need. We must also work hard to push FENZ to step up and do everything it can to support those sick and injured. I am working hard to ensure all our members have access to mental wellness programmes to ensure we can identify the changes in ourselves, develop the tools and habits that can improve our wellbeing and making sure they can access professional help when it is needed. There is a lot of work to do and I am driven to keep pushing to get it done on both Local and National levels. Having both roles means I get to be in the room at both levels, directly involved with what our membership is experiencing while being able to push for change at the national level.

I have learned a lot in my time on the National Committee as a Northern Branch representative.

Bargaining for the collective agreement was a massive experience. It was a long and hard battle for all members, and the unity of the membership across the country resulted in a settlement we should all be proud of. The Locals worked hard to make sure the campaign was a great success and the industrial action went like clockwork.

For the National Committee it meant hundreds of hours in meetings from preparing claims and the strategy, really frustrating bargaining meetings with FENZ, and often daily National Committee phone calls and video conferences to work through the problems to agree on the right decision to get the result. As a National Committee we decided the strategy well before bargaining even started. We outlined the plan at all the May 2022 meetings where members voted for the industrial action. Then at the December ratification meetings we were able to show how that plan had actually played out. I know it was frustrating for everyone that it took 18 months and it was tough going for most of that time. But I can assure you every dollar and every claim was fought for. We brought the public with us and influenced the government to get the deal done. The Northern Branch representatives worked hard nationally but always representing our Branch membership. One example was the Auckland Metro allowance. I was a member of the 2019 Auckland Taskforce and our claim was based on the evidence provided in that Taskforce's report. But there is a lot more to do.

We are now working hard to get in place some of bargaining outcomes. With FENZ everything is a battle. We are close to announcing income protection insurance and a psychological wellness trial. The working parties on staffing, appliances and equipment are underway and we need to keep the pressure on.

I am asking for your support so I can use my experience in the next bargaining round which starts in June next year. I want to continue to represent the Northern Branch in the development of claims, working on a strategy and pushing hard for a strong outcome. I want to use my experience and passion in those negotiations to see real progress on health and welfare support.

The Union has shown what a strong and united leadership can achieve. I am asking for your support so we can continue to strive for better working lives for our members. You can trust me to put in the work and to push hard.

Please give me a call on 021 024 03748 if you want to know more.