

June 24 2010

## **FIREFIGHTERS BACK U.S. COMEDY LEGEND**

Victorian fire fighters will join their North American colleagues in supporting the fundraising efforts of comedian Jerry Lewis for research into muscular dystrophy and patient support.

Today they formalised their partnership when Jerry Lewis met firefighters and their children at Eastern Hill fire station in East Melbourne.

Peter Marshall, secretary of the United Firefighters Union, says the union is proud to be asked to support the cause.

“For years we’ve heard about the good work of US and Canadian firefighters in supporting Jerry’s incredible fundraising efforts for muscular dystrophy,” he said.

“We’re delighted to be part of a global campaign by the firefighting community, and hope that, through Jerry’s inspiration, we can help make a difference for Australian families affected by muscular dystrophy.”

MFB CEO and Chief Officer Graham Fountain said MFB firefighters are always ready to help with a good cause.

“Like our firefighting cousins in the US and our colleagues at the UFU, we’re always ready to get behind a cause that will help our community,” said Mr Fountain.

“It is a great pleasure today to be acting with the UFU and Jerry Lewis to do what we can to raise awareness and funding to battle Muscular Dystrophy.”

Mr Fountain said he was looking forward to this being the first step toward a closer and more collaborative working relationship with the UFU.

As well a lifetime in film and television, and a string of honours including an Academy Award and French Legion of Honour, Jerry Lewis has been the National Chairman of the US Muscular Dystrophy Association for more than 50 years, raising in excess of US\$2.5 billion.

He is also International Patron of Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia, and is currently in Australia to raise local awareness and research funding for muscular dystrophy.

### **For more information**

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