

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: RE: Confidential Submission (Revised)
Date: Thursday, 6 July 2017 12:42:05 AM

Revised submission

Volunteer member of CFA Mornington Integrated Brigade (2 years)

Dear Committee,

I appeal to you to look at this legislation and consider the following.

Not one of the last eight fire service reviews has suggested breaking up the CFA integrated model.

The last review published in 2016 suggested further integration and the introduction of a hub and spoke model. The current government accepted these recommendations. The New Zealand fire service have announced moving to an integrated model and highlighted our very own Fire Services Review 2016.

The CFA volunteers were not consulted about a massive fundamental change. This is a requirement of the CFA Act. Has the government broken the law?

Harriet Shing came to Mornington. It appeared to be a damage limitation exercise. When asked about what would happen to brigade funds, she replied "you will keep your funds and we'll top them up". However, in the legislation the CFA have to provide a list of brigade assets to the government who can, at their discretion, transfer to the FRV. This could include our FCV (Toyota Land Cruiser used for EMR response and strike teams) and our brigade bus.

Harriet Shing also stated that presumptive legislation was tied to the bill to make it difficult for the opposition to undo the legislation.

Introducing presumptive legislation and saying it is based on the QLD model is not true. The QLD model does not have different claims paths between volunteers and career staff. See published report from Jack Rush QC. There are omissions from the legislation such a PAD Operators at CFA training facilities. These are CFA Staff who are not career firefighters who are still exposed to similar risks.

Harriet Shing also stated there were a range of options for volunteers from co-locating to moving to their own station.

The volunteers at Mornington held a meeting to discuss these options for moving forward. This meeting has caused division between career staff and volunteers such that career staff have withdrawn from training volunteers until further notice.

Steve Warrington has since been to the brigade and suggested that the option of our own station is not on the table.

I have always felt privileged to be a member of an integrated station and have gained many friends and colleagues from both sides. I have always believed that we get the best training by having dedicated staff.

This all has to stop. It is destroying us. Mornington have several ex captains with many hundreds of years combined experience. We risk losing these members as a result of government interference.

35 integrated stations x average of 30 operational employees could mean the loss of over 1000 operational volunteers.



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10
