

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr Andrew George  
[REDACTED]

13 Spry Street

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I think this reform is a good idea and has been some time in coming. I am a volunteer firefighter at Morwell, although I represent myself and not the Brigade. Presently, the Brigade does 600+ fire calls every financial year. There is no way a Volunteer station could cope with that workload. Having two separately run permanent fire services in one state is a bit of a joke and duplication of funds, etc. Within this day and age, particularly in our growth corridors, the public expectations on a timely reponse are very high, as they should be. Even as a volunteer, I'd find it hard to justify a 5+ minute response in our primary turnout area. Once fire takes hold in a compartment, it only takes around three minutes to become involved in a flashover, which is no good for anyone trapped in that compartment.

I believe that there is room for Retained within this reform. You could set the review number at approximately half of the FRV trigger number, i.e. if a Brigade was to consistently record 300 jobs for instance, then retained could come into play. They would still be under CFA, still part of that Brigade, but retained on station, like a staff member, ready to respond within 90 seconds. They would have to pass some sort of entry standard to fill the position. This way the community still has a 90 second response even when it falls below the benchmark required for FRV response. It would even be a money saver as you might have say 20 retained members instead of 50 volunteers. This would bring quite a large saving alone in purchasing PPC and uniforms, as well as paging devices.

I thank the committee for its time.

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File1:

File2:

File3: