

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

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

Mr Paul Scott  
 [REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I would like to submit to the committee my approval of the legislation

As a fire fighter of some 38 years service 24 of them in the outer suburbs I believe the reform will rectify a number of issues that are in the current system. The current boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years and the number of incidents fire fighters attend in these integrated areas has risen greatly due to the increasingly larger population and structures. As a fire fighter I am acutely aware of the roll and benefits of Volunteers in the rural areas of Victoria but I have seen first hand the down fall of a system that relies on Volunteer attendance in an Urban environment. Fire fighting is an inherently dangerous task and requiring quick, timely and well trained coordinated action, all of which become compromised when the back up is unreliable in timeliness or training level.

Volunteers in the Urban modern environment through no fault of their own cannot guarantee this service, working away from their station area, sickness, family pressures all make it impossible for the urban areas to rely on Volunteer back up.

This put the public at risk and excess strain on the career fire fighters

I will give you one of my experiences but I could supply many I attended a house fire in the outer northern suburbs of Melbourne and on arrival we sent 2 fire fighters into a house to search for any occupants and a Volunteer truck arrived I ask for 2 more fire fighters to use breathing apparatus to assist and ensure there was a rescue crew ready encase any problems arrived. I was then told that there was no volumeters qualified to wear breathing apparatus which left the crew inside the house without any backup luckily this incident did not result in any injury or worse, but this event is repeated continually across the outer suburbs due to the pressures of modern living, this reform will rectify that and allow fire fighters to do the job with a lower degree of danger knowing that they are getting that timely, trained back up.

While some Volunteers have a level of first aid training nearly all MFB fire fighters and a growing number of CFA career fire fighters are trained in Emergency Medical response a high level of first aid servicing the community with a higher level of first aid backing up our Ambulance service at time critical medical emergencies and mitigating Cardiac arrest numbers in all covered areas

The reform will also give greater training ability and surety to the Volunteer service and greater funding to improve service in their area

I also believe the 2 sections of the reform should remain together as 1 compliments the other great safety to the community and fire fighters lessens the time spent in dangerous environments therefore lessening the incidence of cancer a win for everyone.

Thank you for reading this submission I would be happy to talk to any of the committee if that is required

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File1:

File2:

File3: