

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Robbie Black [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 5:12 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Bill Submission

To the Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

My name is Robbie Black and I am a career firefighter with the CFA and have been since 2011. I am currently stationed at Frankston Fire station and hold the rank of Leading Firefighter.

I write to you imploring you to vote in favour of the proposed fire services reform. As a resident of Frankston, it still shocks me that it is still considered a “country” area of Victoria. The growth, infrastructure and proximity to the CBD itself would beg to differ. Frankston has been growing at a rapid rate for the last 30 years, no longer is it a “holiday” home destination, with the rapid rise of house prices in central Melbourne, population of permanent residents to Frankston has sky rocketed. Frankston has a huge amount of risk, both residential and commercial. It has the one of the busiest hospitals in the South East in Frankston Hospital, Monash university, Bayside shopping centre, Karingal Shopping centre as well as numerous industrial and commercial risks. Due to the proximity to the peninsula and bay, Frankston is also home to a large amount of nursing homes too. The support blue print is large with our Teleboom supporting the suburbs of Langwarrin, Baxter, Carrum Downs, Skye, Mt Eliza.

Frankston currently runs a support career truck into neighbouring volunteer only suburbs, namely Carrum downs, Baxter, Langwarrin, Mt Eliza. We routinely are the first arriving appliance on scene and in numerous cases of my own experiences the volunteer brigades have failed to respond or when responded, have arrived with crews that don't hold requisite qualifications and training to fight urban structural fires. This puts my crews in serious danger as me as a crew leader don't have the required number of BA qualified operators to safely mount an attack on a structure fire. Not only is it a risk to my crews but it greatly increases the chance of injury or death to the general public and this is simply unacceptable. The residents of Melbourne deserve better. The proposed reform means that for all jobs two trucks with 7 career firefighters will be dispatched to each job. This guarantees a minimum of 7 qualified BA operators for every job, on scene within 8 minutes.

This is not an attack on volunteers, quite the opposite. I think volunteers do a fantastic job. Melbourne is expanding at an exponential rate and in turn the fire service needs to catch up and modernise. The new reform will be a more cost effective and efficient service delivery model that will provide the best possible response for the community.

I specifically joined the CFA in 2011, this was the organisation I wanted to work for. In saying that, Victoria is long overdue for these reforms. This is about community safety and what the public deserve. When you call 000, you deserve a firetruck at your door within 8 minutes with suitably qualified personnel to address your emergency. Surge capacity will remain for major emergencies allowing career FRV staff to work seamlessly alongside volunteer counterparts within the CFA.

Yours Sincerely,

Robbie James Black
[REDACTED]

**Only working smoke
alarms save lives.**



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