

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 5:59 PM
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 Patrick Leddin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Attention the Fire Services Bill Select Committee.

I have several concerns about the Fire Services Legislation which has been rushed through the Lower House with undue haste.

I am a qualified firefighter with the Wandong Brigade and have been an operational firefighter for thirty years.

I have three main concerns. First, the haste with which the Bill was presented to the House allowing no perusal or consultation with any of the stakeholders.

Second, the Presumptive Legislation on cancer is not equitable to all CFA members in that paid firefighters suffering one of the 12 listed cancers get automatic compensation and treatment while volunteers have to be "considered" by a panel. As a volunteer, I have been exposed to a range of hazardous situations where chemicals have been burnt in paddocks or sheds, materials have leaked from tankers on the Hume Freeway and toxic gas on the bottom of the Hazelwood Coal Mine.

Finally, I question the sense of taking volunteers out of stations. I agree that areas on the urban fringe need more paid firefighters as the demands for service put a tremendous strain on the volunteers. However, if there is no call for volunteers in the more populated areas, the surge capacity of the CFA will be severely depleted.

I believe we have one of the best systems in the world in one of the most fire prone areas of the world. While the system needs some modification, advances in the CFA, over the period of my involvement, have been ongoing, particularly in the areas of training, equipment and philosophy.

Thank you for considering this submission which I would be happy to have on your web site.

Yours faithfully

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File1:

File2:

File3: