

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 10:15 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 Andrew Barnes
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Firefighter Dandenong fire station
 CFA
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a career Firefighter at Dandenong CFA and started my career at Patterson River CFA. I have grave concerns if the Fire services bill does not get passed in the parliament vote in August.

Over my short 2 year career I have seen and heard of many incidences that involve career and volunteer Firefighters that will make the general public cringe if they knew that they were getting a substandard fire service response for the amount of money that is paid through the fire services levy.

I personally have dealt with volunteers due to working in areas where there is only one integrated station surrounded by volunteer stations, where firefighter safety has been severely compromised due to the lack of skilled volunteers that are available to turn out to the call that they have been paged to. This is through no fault of the volunteers that do turn out and the ones that do volunteer, they have other commitments and family life's that in my mind should come first.

But in saying this the public deserve to get what they pay for through the levy, and the majority of public are fully unaware that not only the safety of firefighters is at risk every time that career firefighters turn out with volunteers, but the fact that there is a reduced chance of a better outcome than if 2 fully filled career fire appliances arrived.

Secondly coming from England and having friends in the UK fire services, after hearing what has happened to them due to what politics has done to the service. I am worried that if this bill does not get passed then the opposition will do what has happened in the UK to our fire service not only taking away my lively hood but reducing the fire coverage for my family and the greater general public.

In closing the reasons I have for this bill to get passed and sense to prevail are simple

- Better coverage and support to all areas of Victoria experiencing substantial growth
- Support for struggling volunteer brigades by way of career coverage from all sides
- To allow the opposition to see that reform is needed so that they do not have the opportunity to demises the current fire service and put the public at a greater risk than they already are with the current outdate model.

I do trust that this will add weight to support the Reform and I thank you for taking the time to read my submission

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File1:

File2:

File3: