

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Russell Cunningham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 June 2017 12:01 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Bill

**Russell Cunningham**  
**CFA Career Firefighter**  
**Geelong City Fire Station**  
**Level 2 Firefighter**

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of Geelong, I have seen firsthand what happens when a delayed response can alter the outcome of any type of time critical incident. The chance of protecting lives is greatly reduced and seconds can mean the difference between containing a fire to its origin or a fully involved house fire.

Just out of recruits on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016 approximately 1844 hours I responded to a Structure fire support call in the Corio Area. Within 90 seconds we were out the doors. Further information came through on the radio that there were known people inside the house at the time including young children. With information like that, we know that time frames are an important key factor in preserving the life of those unknown people and their property. Within 4 minutes we were on scene directly after Staffed Corio fire appliances. Staffed Corio crew made a rapid primary search and removed the remaining people out of the burning house. When we arrived I aided in containing the fire to two bedrooms and part of the hallway of the house. This was a positive outcome.

Time frames are critical to survivability as fire intensity can increase rapidly within seconds. Without the intervention of our staffed firefighters between the 3-5 minute mark, the likelihood of the house being fully involved in fire would be around the 7-9 minute range. There would be an extremely low chance of survivability not to mention the dangers towards fire service staff. Fire intensity would be too great to send any search and rescue team in to look for casualties.

Not to mention with the roll out of Emergency medical Response within the next 12 months, current staffed CFA stations will offer priority zero calls (unconscious and not breathing) a rapid response and a greater chance to save further lives.

This is why time critical response is so important, not only for the safety of the public and protecting their property but also the safety of our fire crew.

This also leads me to how important it is to respond 7 staffed crew to all incidents. I respect what volunteer firefighters do and the time they give up to support their communities but we cannot guarantee response time, crew numbers and crew qualifications/capabilities to every job. It's always changing as they have commitments outside of their volunteering roles.

Again I respect highly what our volunteers do but it's not about them and it's not about us career staff, it's about improving our response times and fire response capabilities. To do this, improvements have to be made to staffed stations as they have a guaranteed response time and guaranteed skills and training to perform all duties.

Please support the Fire Service Reform.

Regards,



**Russell Cunningham Firefighter**

Geelong City Fire Station – 69 McKillop Street Geelong Vic 3220



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