

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Andrew Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2017 10:18 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

I am a Level 1 career fire fighter at CFA that joined the organisation on 03 August 2016. I live in Geelong and work in Ballarat.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

In my short career thus far I have experienced firsthand several occasions where volunteers have failed to turn out; the most recent was a motor vehicle accident. Fortunately there was no one trapped, however, it crossed my mind that if anyone had been trapped, our nearest rescue brigade had not responded.

Another glaring issue that I have been confronted with when attending incidents with volunteers is the qualification/competency difference. There have been many occasions when a volunteer vehicle has arrived on scene, only to be made aware that they don't have breathing apparatus qualifications. This means they can't assist with many critical components of the fire fight.

I am very uncomfortable with the fact that back up is always a maybe, and if it does arrive, can't always help. I feel that this not only places fire fighters at risk, but also the community.

I have utmost respect for the volunteers that turn out time and time again, day after day. There have been many days when I have left work fatigued after a hectic shift and wondered how the volunteers continue turning out without respite. How can they run out the door constantly on work and family when the calls keep coming? The implementation of FRV will provide much needed assistance in these growth areas that are grossly under staffed and resourced.

With all career fire fighters in one service I believe that the current infighting within CFA will cease. I do not see how this will have any bearing on volunteer turnouts or surge capacity. If anything, the moral will increase as will the number of members.

The reform will aid in standardising equipment and training. Coming from a military background, I am baffled by the lack of consistency throughout the fire organisations. It is borderline unsafe in its current format, and reform will go a long way in fixing this.

With the growing population in the outer suburbs of Melbourne through to the larger regional cities, all community members deserve a greater level of service on the fire and rescue front, and the FRV will provide this.

Yours sincerely,



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