

30.6.2017

To the Fire Services Reform Parliamentary Enquiry.

*My name is Philip McGrath, MFB Leading Firefighter of 32years service, currently stationed at Highett.*

*Qualifications; Leading FF, EMR, Heavy Rescue, Teleboom, Mark 5 pump, BA Qualified.*

*Awards; Victorian Emergency Medal Black Saturday. I do not expect any awards for just doing my job.*

*Dear Sir,*

*As a firefighter of 32years in fire fighting operations, fire ground safety is imperative and as such, the MFB have set a minimum of 7 firefighters on the fire ground. This mainly involves safety for firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entering a burning building to perform rescue or to start internal fire fighting operations. I have become aware that professional firefighters outside the MFB area are not afforded the guaranteed same level of protection due to the reliance on attending volunteer personnel who may or may not be BA qualified.*

*I support reform and the review into the metropolitan boundaries so all firefighters in Melbourne have the same occupational OH&S protections that the MFB have at the moment. This would also apply to volunteer firefighters so that they are ensured safe fire ground operations as well.*

*I'm sick of the vitriolic rhetoric demonising my profession and character and the politicisation of my profession by media and politicians.*

*Yours truly,*

*Philip P McGrath.*

[REDACTED]