

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 1 July 2017 3:12 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** fire services reform

## Fire Services Reform

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a professional MFB fire-fighter for 20 years and 3 years as a retained\volunteer NSWFB fire-fighter. I am currently based at Oakleigh fire station. I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of Oakleigh and the surrounding suburbs, I have seen first-hand what happens when there is a delay in reaching any call for help. I and my crews have saved countless lives over the years by only a matter of minutes.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

I currently live in Frankston South and have been there approximately 11 years, my closest fire station is Mount Eliza Volunteer station. Although they do a good job they can't match the response times or qualifications of a professionally staffed station. I recently installed smoke alarms in every bedroom so as to give me the earliest warning to evacuate my family in case of an emergency, as every second counts!

Frankston, Mt Eliza and especially Somerville which has grown 10 fold in both population and businesses have a volunteer response only. Being an ex-volunteer myself I know the dangers of not having the right qualified crew at your disposal to tackle the emergency at hand. As a volunteer I just couldn't match the response times as a fully qualified fire-fighter. Increased response times equal loss of life and property, that fact cannot be debated.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas, they form part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career fire-fighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer fire-fighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a fire-fighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our fire-fighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire-fighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me and my colleagues.

I have lost 2 good friends and fellow MFB members due to suicide over the last 2 years partly due to the increased attacks by MFB management and MFB not correcting the media mistruths from in particularly the Herald Sun. Many times MFB management have stayed strangely quiet when mistruths have been spread in the media. This has had a profound impact on me, my private life and my fellow workers. Moral is at an all-time low. I was taught that if you witness bullying if you turn the other cheek then you are just as guilty of bullying as the perpetrators themselves.

I and my crews have personally been the victims of abuse from members of the public due to these false media reports that our senior leadership executive team fail to correct.

I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to talk to you further about my personal experiences as a professional fire-fighter and why this reform is so important.

I would like to keep this email confidential as I fear reprisals from MFB management.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted] | **C Platoon** | [Redacted]  
Oakleigh Fire Station | Eastern District | South East Metro Region  
**Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board**  
100 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, VIC, 3165.  
[Redacted]

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