

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Nick Jessup [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 3:41 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire services reform

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my support for the reform of the Victorian fire services.

I am a professional firefighter and have been a member of the MFB for 9 years.

I live in Research which has a CFA volunteer brigade.

I believe the current model is out dated and needs to be reformed into a better functioning, more progressive service.

Firstly I want to make it clear that throughout this submission I in no way intend to disrespect or diminish the hard work that CFA volunteer firefighters put in. I simply want to state some facts that I have become aware of in my 9 years of professional firefighting.

Working in Thomastown I have witnessed firsthand the unsatisfactory turnout times delivered by the volunteers out of Greenvale, Craigieburn and Epping fire stations. On countless occasions I have see the volunteer brigades arriving at a fire call minutes after the fire has been extinguished by MFB and CFA professional firefighters. This is not the fault of the volunteers but due to the fact that when paged to attend a fire call, the volunteers are required to stop what they are doing, drive to the fire station, don their turnout gear and wait for any other volunteers to arrive all before responding to the fire call. In contrast to CFA and MFB professional firefighters who are required to be out of the station and responding to a fire call within 90 seconds of the initial call. This time delay before arriving on scene may be the difference between live or death for someone trapped in a burning building or simply the difference between the fire being limited to one room of the house or the entire house being lost.

Further to this and contrary to what has been shamelessly reported in the media, volunteers do not receive the same training that professional firefighters receive. Professional firefighters receive 16 weeks of full time training before being deemed sufficiently trained to respond to a fire call. This is a bare minimum requirement that volunteer firefighters do not receive and includes an Emergency Medical Response capability that the CFA volunteer organisation do not deliver.

Living on the urban fringe I believe that my family deserve the same fire cover that families living less than 5 kms down the road in Eltham benefit from. For this reason, I support the fire services reform.

Regards,

LFF Nicholas Jessup
[REDACTED]