

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 4:37 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mrs Lynette Davey

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I write in support of the Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 in my capacity as the parent of a career firefighter. This firefighter is a highly respected and highly competent man who holds a senior rank at his integrated fire station. The unnecessarily protracted negotiations of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement have placed unprecedented strain and stress on him and his family. This has been evident in terms of both the workplace and the family's home life. This state's career firefighters are dedicated to the service of their respective communities and, without wishing to appear dis-respectful towards volunteer members, our career firefighters have chosen this as their permanent full time employment. They work their hours and more, to ensure the safety of the community and to put food on the table, pay their mortgages and weekly bills, educate their children and maintain a relationship with their spouse and family. There have been occasions over the last several months where I have worried about my son's well being and his relationship with his wife and family. There are times when he can't sleep, times when he is impatient and times when he is just 'down'. Why? The demands of the job complicated by the protracted and politically driven delays in finalising the EBA and the unnecessary, but possibly deliberate, fracturing of relationships between career firefighters and volunteers. My son doesn't say too much about the job - just goes about it in his professional manner. I can't even begin to imagine what its like to attend an incident where the driver of a vehicle has been incinerated or a mum and child have been killed at an intersection. Or how he felt when two career firefighters known to him took their own lives. He is strong man and fortunate to have a loving family and the support of good people, and I am very proud of him and his achievements. Nevertheless, these last months have had an impact. I visited a local supermarket with him one day. Walking down the aisle towards us was a man. This person looked, turned and walked away. 'That was one of the vols at the station. They don't talk to us', he said. The current situation should never, ever have come to this. Our firefighters have a right to work in a supportive environment, have a right to negotiate their workplace agreements and our community deserves the best service the State of Victoria can provide. The NSW Fire Service seems to have it right. Victoria needs to pass this Bill.

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File1:

File2:

File3: