

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** BLACK, Michelle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 July 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER’S PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER’S PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017**

I have been a firelighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for 1.5 years.

I live in the Prahran and work at Eastern Hill fire station.

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

- The fire services reform provides an opportunity for all of Victoria’s fire services in built up areas to have a guaranteed 7 minute response.
- There will be a guaranteed professional firefighter response which will provide a safer workplace for fighters and better outcomes for the public.
- It is of vital importance that we have a guaranteed 2 truck turnout, with at least 7 firefighters to an incident to ensure the ongoing safety of both myself and my fellow firefighters. Without this stipulation you could potentially have a dangerous situation in which a firefighter has to decide upon ensuring their own safety by not entering a burning building alone and thereby leaving someone inside or endangering their own life in order to serve the community.
- It is only common sense that as the population of Victoria increases and the urban sprawl of Melbourne increases that the level of service provided by the relevant fire authority should alter and increase accordingly. While everyone has to pay the fire services levy there is a gross level of inequality of the level of cover provided based upon what suburb you live and whether that has historically been more of a rural area but is now highly urbanised.
- This reform will have absolutely no effect upon the ability of Volunteer Firefighters to continue to provide the vital and exemplary cover in Victoria’s rural areas.
- The bringing together of Victoria’s two professional fire brigades into one service is long overdue. We currently have a situation where two separate services turn out together with different equipment, different levels of training and different operational guidelines. The standardisation of the services can only ultimately provide the community with a better more professional fire service and also, in the long run, save money.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Black  
[REDACTED]

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