

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 July 2017 3:29 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

Miss Stephanie Riordan  
[REDACTED]

Fire Fighter  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade

308/76 Keilor Road Essendon North

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

I have been a firefighter for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for just over two years. I live in Essendon North and work in Pascoe Vale. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

I live and work in a highly urbanised residential area that requires a modern urban fire service. I have many friends that live in highly urbanised residential areas out in the suburbs which are currently serviced by CFA volunteered stations. I don't believe it to be fair that they should receive a lesser cover than the suburb in which I live simply because these suburbs have not been around for as long. It is impossible to expect that a volunteered station in these highly urbanised growth areas could achieve the same response times as which currently occurs within the MFB.

Victoria should be about moving forward into the future and not stuck in the 50's simply because that is the way it has always been. No other profession would be expected to remain untouched in 50+ years. I would not purchase a house in a current CFA volunteer area as i know I would be receiving a substandard service, I could not have it guaranteed that if i was at work and something happened to my house that I would even have a volunteer turn up. There is currently no emergency medical response for volunteer areas.

Why should it depend on the area I live in whether i get to live or die, whether if my house is on fire someone arrives within 7.8 minutes or whether it could burn down through lack of resources. This is through no fault of the volunteer however a volunteer is a volunteer because they get their source of income from another avenue. They do not currently have the same standards and expectations of which we are to uphold. A volunteer service should be used in areas where there is no need for professional firefighters or no high risk. Melbourne has been growing at a rapid speed, the risk has spread and we need to catch up rather than caring who's patch of turf somewhere is.

We as firefighters have been in industrial dispute for longer than i have even been in the job. I have not seen

a time where I have felt like we have been supported for the work we have done. We are simply asking for a stronger more resilient fire service that will protect the greater Victoria. This reform is for the best, it is for the people not only of the inner Melbourne, but the whole of Victoria. This allows us to move forward do our job in harmony.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Riordan

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File1:

File2:

File3: