

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Nick French [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 4:37 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Inquiry into the firefighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017.
Attachments: GW.xls

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees.

Inquiry into the firefighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017.

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

I am a Qualified Firefighter for the Country Fire Authority and have been employed now for just over 3 years with over 60 years of family history in the CFA. I have lived in Geelong for over 32 years where I am now stationed. I have also spent time at other stations around the state.

As a husband, father, fire fighter and member of my community I cannot stress how important it is for fire service reform. The current way in which the CFA operates in regards to whom gets dispatched to what calls is in my view a gamble with people's lives. In its current format a brigade can be responded to a house fire where there is no guarantee in a response from the local brigade and it's supporting brigade could be turning out with an under staffed/manned appliance. This is not only putting the lives of the occupant at risk or even worse death, but also putting undue stress on fire fighters and compromising the safety of the fire fighters who arrive on scene with inadequate numbers to safely mitigate the situation ie: (1 X incident controller 1 X pump operator 1 X Breathing Apparatus... chiefs standards and standards around the world are 2 X BA operators at a minimum). 7 on the fire ground is a minimum for safe operations. An example of this is attached where a structure fire was received with possible persons trapped. My shift attended this incident in Geelong West where the primary brigade failed responded a primary appliance slowing down the fire attack and initial search for the reported persons. Examples like this and many more around the state is just one of the many reasons why reform is needed.

Fire service boundaries have not been changed for decades with a 'fix as we go mentality' adopted to overcome any issues in regards to responses. The 35 integrated stations around the state that were once considered 'country' are now heavily populated and need to be better supported with a minimum of a 2 truck response within 8 minutes with at least 7 firefighters on the fire ground. With growth in Victoria and the every expanding Melbourne metropolitan, Melbourne is said to have its biggest ever growth phase. With an inadequate fire service and ever changing urban landscape now is the time for a modernised and up to date fire service, not only for the protection for the people of today but also for the people of the future.

Yours sincerely,

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