

Kirra Vanzetti

From: MENZ, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 5:10 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission RE Victorian Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is Paul Menz, I am a Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I have been a Firefighter since February 2016, previous to that I was a soldier with the Australian Army.

I have the following awards; Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Australian Service Medal with clasp Solomon Islands II, Australian Defence Medal, Nato International Security Assistance Force Medal.

I live in Epping North, Victoria and work at West Melbourne.

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

As a professional firefighter, it is my strong opinion that a minimum of two fire trucks and 7 professional firefighters, trained to a high and common base standard are required in order to effect safe and effective firefighting operations in an urban environment. It causes me much concern that the area that I live, a highly populated and fast growing urban environment such as Epping North, does not have the same level of protection as the current and out-dated metropolitan fire district. When the metropolitan fire district and Metropolitan Fire Brigade Act was established in 1958, Epping was a rural area. Now in 2017, it is one of the fastest growing corridors in Victoria and Australia. Members of the public are bewildered when they ask me about my job as a firefighter and why don't I work in Epping North. I explain to them that the station in Epping is only crewed by volunteers who have to be contacted by a buzzer, drive to the station, then wait till enough crew are available before they respond to an emergency.

The current situation in Epping North, along with the other growing, highly urbanized suburbs of Melbourne which are considered to be “country” in terms of fire response puts both firefighters and members of the public at risk. We need this reform to ensure these suburbs and the people that live in them receive two fire trucks despatched within 90 seconds, arriving at the scene within 7.7 minutes with 7 professional firefighters.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Menz
 [REDACTED]

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