

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Nick Petersen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 July 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Submission to Fire Services Bill

To Fire Services Bill Committee Members,

My name is Nicholas Petersen. I am an Acting Station Officer, employed my Melbourne Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) for the past 28 years.

I am currently stationed in a day work position at the Burnley Training complex, working in At Risk Groups, within the Community Resilience Department.

My role within MFB is addressing risks identified by Operational Fire fighters on shift. These risks are varies in nature and could be from a person suffering on scene at a call showing signs of dementia, living in a property affected by hoarding and/or squalor, persons with disability and/or impairments etc.

MFB have a reporting system whereby Firefighters are able to 'email' in on scene concerns that are not life threatening and do not require instant intervetion to the At Risk Depatment. At Risk Groups action these reports by 'linking' these vulnerable people up with services – ranging from Mental Health referrals, Council Services, Specialised Hearing equipment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing eg Smoke Alarms Support through DVA for Veterans, Widows and Widowers and the list continues.

At the moment, the County Fire Authority (CFA) do not have a system in place that can do anything similar to what MFB do. The vulnerable people in this State deserve to have the same access to services and by having the one Fire Service in Urban Areas is a start in the right direction. The system MFB has in place can easily be expanded to include all urban areas with delivery/training to all urban stations put in place in a similar method as the current MFB plan.

MFB - At Risk Groups, also manage the 'Hoarding Notification System' which is a list of properties that are affected by hoarding. These properties have been registered by agencies that support the individuals that live in the property and if a call to one of these properties occurs, firefighters are notified on route. This prepares them that there is an increased chance that someone may be trapped, need rescuing, that there is an increased fuel load and to be aware of dangers. This list is secured by At Risk Groups and cannot be accessed by anyone else except information on route to a fire, due to sensitive information. CFA do not have capacity for this system either. This system saves lives- both civilian and firefighters and by having the one Fire Service, this can be implemented.

I live in rural Healesville which is serviced by a fully volunteer station. I do support the volunteers out here as I have lived in Healesville for over 40 years however, believe the time for a boundary realignment is well overdue. The population in Melbourne and Regional Cities has outgrown the capacity of the original CFA volunteer model and the new proposed Fire Service Reform, and aligning it the Urban areas makes sense. Thank you,

Regards,

Nick Petersen  
[REDACTED]

