

3/7/2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is Jodi Villani. I am writing as a wife of a career firefighter of 16 years. Enough is enough, we need the committee to act now & do the right thing on behalf of all career firefighters. This whole drama has gone on far too long & it is affecting not only the career firefighters but their partners & families.

I do have concerns about the safety of my husband when the nature of his work is inherently dangerous, but also having to battle the politicians, newspapers, volunteers & the general public. This reform brings about increased standards and delivery of fire cover to 35 highly urban areas, and provides increased safe work practices, why wouldn't everyone want that kind of service delivery?

The EBA negotiations have been going on for too many years to remember. Some CFA volunteers and VFBV members have interfered in the negotiating process relating to my husband's conditions of employment. This has reached such a low point during last year's federal election when the media reported career firefighters as greedy power consuming thugs.

This reform will return CFA to a fully volunteer organisation. Volunteers want this! CFA can focus on strengthening support to volunteers with having to deal with

industrial issues. This will be a win for volunteers and for all career firefighters!

Please, I ask you to reflect on the ongoing stress this will create, in an already stressful job if this Bill does not pass.

I have detailed below the affects as I have experienced.

- 1. General public approaching my husband & abusing him in relation to the EBA. And feeling this is acceptable behaviour.**
- 2. General public approaching myself & utterly disrespectful comments being relayed as acceptable behaviour.**
- 3. CFA volunteers weighing in on the current situation aggressively, again feeling this is acceptable.**
- 4. Mental stress & anguish to both my husband & the negative expression this has on our family including our children.**
- 5. Concerns for my husbands health. After all some of these reforms are for ensuring they have the correct equipment so they don't get sick.**
- 6. Does his employer really care or is he just expendable.**
- 7. My husband is highly trained & should be shown the respect that he is afforded, this clearly is not occurring & it shows.**

I also am a public servant, a registered nurse, working as a highly trained professional in a public hospital. I am appalled by the treatment of our career firefighters and urge the committee to pass the Bill as amateur of urgency.