

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 9:37 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

Station Officer/Multicultural Liaison Officer Owen Butler
 [REDACTED]
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I currently am a operational firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade with 37 years service. I currently hold the rank stated above and work at the North West Regional Directorate 152 Plenty Road, Preston as the MLO for the Northern District.

I make this submission as I am sick and tired of the events of the last several years.

I write to advise that the system is broken and desperately needs fixing. The two fire services have gone on unchallenged for decades. Ash Wednesday 16 Feb 1983 i was completing a training course at the MFB training college in Richmond.

The fires were spreading and serious (now called Catastrophic). The MFB has up to 20 fully manned pumpers to respond to the fires as a task force if required and we sat in the mess room and watched the fire destroy towns on the TV mess room.

Needless to say no one was impressed as we watched the Army dispatched to the fires as well as civilians in shorts and thongs fighting the fire. 20 fully manned pumpers with crews dressed in the best PPC available at the time.

Many problems were identified following that fire such as communications but little was done.

Move onto 7 Feb 2009 when we face another catastrophic fire. MFB were participating this time which was encouraging until a conversation with a task force Commander on arrival at CFA Alexandria staging area was told to go out and "entertain the children".

The Commander went onto the Dept. of Sustainability and was finally given a asset protection area to patrol along the Maroondah Hwy from Narbethong to Taggerty.

Once again nothing had changed. Since then I have several houses in CFA areas levelled by fire due to a broken system. A hotel in South Morang lost as decisions made to send areial equipment from Dandenog when there was an MFB vehicle in station at Thomastown. The system is broken.

I am now 65years old and feel like im sitting on a time bomb as i see fellow firefighters fading away and dying due to cancer. It is not my fault if all data collected for Presumptive Legislation is only available for professional firefighters. If the volunteers need protection then its about time the VFBV started to do something for the volunteers and collect data to show that they too are affected by toxins and free radicals as a result of fighting fire. Commonsense would tell you they are but without collected data how can they run a

case.

I would dearly like to see reform as the current system is broken and needs change to cope with the expansion. EMV's model makes sense to me. Let's make change, its time.

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File1:

File2:

File3: