

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Shaun Nicolson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 10:06 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Shaun Nicolson, a Qualified Fire Fighter with the CFA. I live in Torquay, have been with the CFA for four years and hold a Fire fighter position at Geelong City Fire Station. I have also worked at a number of stations across the state and have been trained in specialist fields such as RAR, Steep and High angle rope rescue.

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

The Fire service as it is has become very confusing. The model which the CFA has been working under is out dated and needs to be brought up to the times. The growth across Victoria means that the current system and the boundaries within need to be re-assessed.

Whilst there are a great number of career and volunteer staff working harmoniously there is also a divide amongst others. Much of this is through fear of change, miss-information, and political reasons. We need to get on with our jobs.

7 fire fighters dispatched within 8 minutes is an important guarantee for safety that all of us should be aiming for. If crews get hurt there is enough help to get them out.

Volunteers will still turn out and be supported by staff if they are first on scene. Surely this only improves community safety. I live in a community protected by volunteer brigades but knowing staff are also there to support in numbers any time 24/7 is reassuring for me and my family.

Having all career fire fighters employed in one fire service makes sense, especially as it will not affect surge capacity of volunteers and the reform will assist with the standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment.

Most importantly the damage this dispute has had on moral has been profound. Like myself most people who get into this profession do so to help people. The sooner this reform happens the sooner moral will lift and with that service to the community can only benefit.

Yours sincerely,
 Shaun Andrew Nicolson
 [REDACTED]



Shaun Nicolson Firefighter

Geelong City Fire Station – 69 McKillop Street Geelong Vic 3220
 [REDACTED]



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