

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2017 1:16 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

**Categories:** CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

T: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Dear Sir,

I am a Leading Firefighter with the MFB and have been with the organisation for almost 10 years and I feel that it is important for me to take this opportunity to voice my opinion on the restructuring of the Victorian Fire Service. As you are no doubt aware, over the past 50 years the population of Victoria has increased significantly (I'm sure you have the figures) and although there have been a number of significant fire events over this time, there has been minimal change to the Fire Services.

It seems to make sense that the CFA and MFB permanents join to make one service and are expanded to protect the ever increasing urban sprawl, assisted in the less populated areas by the volunteers. Although the groups work well together, it seems to me that there are a number of heavily populated areas that are still serviced by volunteer brigades. Surely, having a permanently manned station would have faster response times than a volunteer brigade! Having seen first hand on numerous occasions how quickly fire takes hold, it is imperative that response times are kept to a minimum in order to protect lives and property.

I am fortunate to live in an area that has good coverage by the MFB and feel that those in outer Melbourne and the more populated country areas have the right to be equally well protected. Having one fire service would also add a lot more flexibility and enable crews to be moved around to meet the needs of the community, especially during significant weather events.

As the population continues to grow, and areas like mine become even more densely populated I feel it is extremely important that the proposed changes are implemented as soon as possible for the safety and well being of the firefighters and the communities that they protect.

The fire services debate has become a bit of a political football of recent times which has benefited no-one and the sooner it is sorted out, the better. Firefighters like me love their job and taking care of the community and I find it really sad the way that the media has sought to divide the parties, divisions that will now take generations to heal.

Let's take the initiative, make the One Fire Service a much overdue reality and start the healing process so that we can move forward as a community.

Yours in confidence,



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File1:

File2:

File3: