

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Reid Coutts [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 2:40 PM
To: LCSC; 'io3@ufuvic.asn.au'
Subject: Fire Services Reform Submission

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

1. I am

Reid Coutts

- Level 3 Fire Fighter employed by the country fire authority,
- Currently stationed at Springvale
- Previously I have spent 2.5 years working at Rosebud CFA station
- My Qualifications include: Breathing Apparatus, Emergency Medical Response, Type iv Pumped/3.4c Tanker endorsed.

2. I live in Frankston and work in Springvale.

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

I believe the community deserves a fire service that delivers the quickest crew to any call with the appropriate skills to manage the incident 24 hours a day 7 days a week, unfortunately I have experienced firsthand that this is not currently the case.

At Rosebud when we are responded to a structure fire we are supported by volunteer crews who are not always available to turn out, when they are available they may not have the appropriate skills to perform critical tasks such as a rescue from inside a structure. This places unnecessary amount of mental stress onto the responding crew, not knowing when the following crew are coming and if they will have the skills to rescue them in the worst case scenario.

Please do not take this as a plan to undermine the work Volunteers do, in fact I see it as a complete opposite. Having 7 professional Fire Fighters responded will not mean volunteers will be turned back, but when the call requires there would always be 7 personnel on the fire ground with all the required skills to make the fire ground as safe as possible for everyone.

As a member of the public how could having 7 Professional Fire Fighters responded to a 000 call be a seen as a negative.

An independent review into brigade turnout areas will also benefit the community greatly.

The current model is in need of a major overhaul as suburbs have expanded and new ones have been created many volunteer brigades are placed under an increasing amount of stress as call rates go up, an independent review will show this and provide the community with a proactive approach to station positioning and manning levels.

In summary:

- The public will receive a world class fire service with the appropriate equipment and training to handle a wide range of call outs.
- All CFA and FRV personnel will have a safer workplace on the fire ground knowing when required there will be a minimum of 7 Fire Fighters with all the skills to provide assistance to each other and the public
- There will be no effect on how the CFA volunteers turn out to calls.
- Outer metropolitan Suburbs will receive a fire service that reflects the needs for the area via an independent review panel.
- CFA will retain their surge capacity with increased recruitment funding
- Presumptive rights will now apply to all Fire Fighters

Yours sincerely,

Reid Coutts

Springvale Fire station,

518 Springvale Rd,

Springvale South, 3172

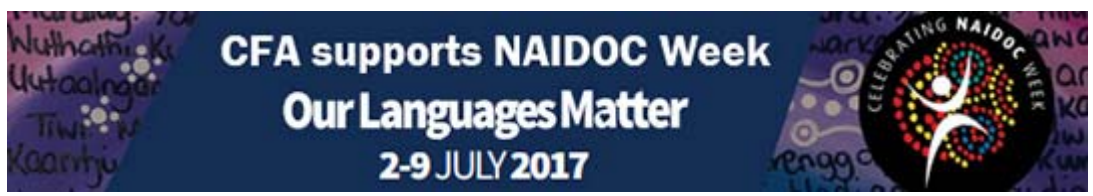
PH: [REDACTED]



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