

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 5:06 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

Mr Jonathan Parkinson

T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

Firefighter

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My name is Jonathan Parkinson and I am a career Firefighter at Ballarat City, Victoria. As a level one firefighter I am relatively new to the Fire Service but having reviewed and understood the facts I would like to give my full support to the proposed Fire Services reform.

By working at Ballarat City Fire Station I have seen firsthand the growth of the population, particularly in the city's west and the ensuing risk this will create to the community without adequate emergency response capability. The city of Ballarat has a wide spread of historic buildings, industry, hospitals, nursing homes and tourist attractions that are vital to the community and I feel privileged to be in a position to help protect these. However, I remain concerned that the current structure of the fire service is not sufficient to allow adequate protection. Too many times I have heard on the radio channels (when Ballarat City is responded to a call) volunteer brigades delaying their turnout due to waiting for members to become available. This is through no fault of their own but simply reflects our modern society where individuals and families work harder and longer and are not always available in these instances. A modernised fire service will alleviate this issue by addressing the out-dated boundaries that will allow appropriate response by both career staff and volunteers. The community will benefit from the improved service and volunteers will be better supported to carry out their important role in a fire service and protect that community.

Away from work I live in Grovedale, a growing suburb not far from Geelong. Again here we see enormous growth, particularly in the corridor between Grovedale and Torquay where the new suburbs of Armstrong Creek, Warrilily and Mount Duneed are booming. Torquay itself also continues to grow rapidly and gets busier each summer. There is also the new Epworth Hospital at Waurm Ponds, neighboured by my former employer, Deakin University that continues its rapid growth on its large campus.

I have a wife who works at Deakin University and two children who attend school in Grovedale. It's a good place to live but I am very conscious of the extent of the growth in the area, and surrounds, and the

enormous strain this puts on our volunteer brigades. Our closest staffed stations are Belmont, Geelong City and Ocean Grove... that's it. They are simply no match for the current and future growth of our community. As with Ballarat my home community needs a reformed Fire Service to respond and be there promptly in our time of need.

Lastly, although being in the fire service a short time, it is no less important to me to see this matter resolved. I have seen firsthand the negative affect it has on both staff and volunteers alike and we would all benefit to see the matter brought to a close.

I know that you will have a lot of material to cover in your deliberation so I appreciate you taking the time to read my submission and I thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards
Jonathan Parkinson

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File1:

File2:

File3: