

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Tony Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2017 8:36 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Reform

To the select Committee

My name is Anthony Brown, I am a Station Officer with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade. My current position is in Training and have been there for 18 Months but before that I was Station at Nunawading Fire Station on "B" platoon. I Manage a Station consisting of 2 Trucks (a pumper and a Rescue Unit) with a crew including myself of 6 Firefighters. In my 35 years of service to the community I have seen so many changes, most notably busier roads, bigger buildings, the increase in population density and the increasing reliance on infrastructure and technology.

Nunawading has a large area to cover and has borders with MFB and CFA and regularly turn out with the CFA both Professional and volunteer firefighters.

As a Station Officer I fully support Fire Service reform for the following reasons.

- A GUARANTEED response of 7 Breathing Apparatus trained firefighters on the fire ground.
  - An increased number of Victorians covered by the Emergency Medical Response program and this will save more lives.
  - It will give Volunteer firefighters the rights they have been asking for and deserve.
  - It will allow the Melbourne Metropolitan area to grow and be serviced by a response time by professional firefighters.
  - Victoria's fire service boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as "COUNTRY" despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia, Ballarat and Geelong are just some of the 35 "Countre areas"
- These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.
- Presumptive legislation for work related cancer will be available to all firefighters. As a career firefighter this would be a benefit to all firefighters as I have gone through Bowl Cancer in 2005 and again in 2016 and any help would be appropriated by myself and my family.

There have been so many occasions in my career as an Officer that the existing model has failed. Either where there has been no backup response from a Volunteer Brigade or where the response by a Volunteer brigade did not have the appropriately qualified firefighters eg. breathing apparatus operators to assist at a structure fire.

By way of example I was turned out to the Knox Tavern in the CFA area for a fire approximately 3 years ago On arrival the flames where just starting to break through the roof so the call was up graded meaning that more firefighting appliances where required both MFB and CFA attended the call and an internal attack was instructed by the commander to extinguish the fire so all firefighters that where to enter the the building had to be Breathing apparatus qualified. All MFB staff have to be BA trained this is not the case in the CFA . After asking for some help I approached the CFA Captain for assistance and out of the 35 volunteers there only 1 was BA qualified and there has to be at least a crew of 2 as a minimum. The CFA

volunteers where utilised in other areas but if they where qualified the workload by the MFB would have been a lot less and also less stressful.

There has been a lot of negative press around the Fire Service and I believe this is totally unfounded. I firmly believe that is in the best interest of all Victorians and it will bring us in line with other Fire Services Worldwide. A recent study found Melbourne is growing at a faster rate than Sydney, we must allow the fire Service to grow with it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I sincerely hope that you vote in favour of moving Victoria forward.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Brown  
Station Officer  
Nunawading Fire Station  
Eastern District  
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.

