

Kirra Vanzetti

From: peter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 9:01 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: FW: Fire Service Reform sub mission

Dear Committee

Allow me to introduce myself

My name is Peter White registered number 3504

I am a third generation emergency worker and my sons intend to follow in my line of employment

I live at [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

I have been an employee of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services for over 36 years.

My current rank is Leading Firefighter and I am currently stationed at Glen Waverley Fire Station a fringe station.

My past postings are as follows Richmond, Camberwell, Surrey Hills ,Nunawading, Eastern Hill ,Carlton, Malvern, Oakleigh and at present for the past 4 years Glen Waverley.

At our station we respond with numerous CFA Fire Station's some volunteer and some professional .

In my role as a Leading Firefighter I am constantly at the front line of a fire call either driving or entering structures on Fire .

My speciality over the years has been Heavy Rescue motor vehicle accidents entrapment and industrial accidents. These skills have been developed over many decades and are on top of the usual requirements of my Firefighter duties which now days includes Emergency Response.

All of these roles are time critical and not being dramatic lifesaving , every single minute counts.

It is unrealistic and grossly unfair to expect a volunteer to spend 24 hours a day 7 days a week waiting for a call at their station.

I have also over the years completed courses in Ultra large Pumps, ladders, ladder platforms ,Emergency Medical Response ,Wild Fire Training, (bush fire). Tele Boom

I have been awarded the National Medal 2nd clasp, National Emergency Medal Vic Fires 2009 .Long Service Medal 30 years.

I was involved in the Ash Wednesday fires 16/18 feb 1983 and the Black Saturday fires 7/8 feb 2009 contrary to some individuals understanding .

There have been many times I have moved up to CFA stations to fill holes and to cover their areas so as to allow CFA Professionals to respond and assist in major grass fires.

I fully support the proposed fire service reforms in fact I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would see such a positive reform of the fire services take place.

Politicians willing to put politics aside and the community wellbeing first and to give adequate fire and emergency response coverage to the ever expanding populace obviously not an easy task otherwise it would have been done years ago.

Surely you can see that the time has come for heavily populated areas and heavily industrialized areas to be covered with a rapid response emergency service.

Please do not think that I am an anti-volunteer advocate that is not the case .We need the volunteers in rural areas just not in the areas I have already mentioned .

Fire Levy paying public deserve a professional fire service 24 hours a day 7 days a week year in year out .

As I said my station covers and extends into CFA Volunteer service areas like Knox City , Springvale and Dandenong.

There are many times that I have had to respond with a volunteer unit and I wish I could say that it does not concern me but it does.

I will unfortunately (and not because of the volunteers fault) not have the expertise and professional support that is offered and in the time frame that I am use to, that is if I am responding within the Metropolitan Fire service area .

As a single father (Widow) my 4 sons need me to go home at the end of the day and I need to know that should something happen to me they will be looked after and that everything was done to assist in my safe return at the end of a shift.

Within my area we also cover the ever expanding Monash University a city with in itself numerous hospitals , numerous elderly care facilities (we often are responded to these facilities to perform EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE a service that we have been providing for over 15 years) It is only just being rolled out in some very few CFA areas with some resistance

I have responded with the Scoresby volunteer station and witnessed a response of 1 person in a 4 wheel drive. As we responded with only 3 on our truck with a further 4 on the road that being Vermont .7 personnel response normal turnout in the MFB AREA Glen Waverley Both Vermont were on scene at Weary Dunlop retirement village Jells Road for at least 10 minutes prior to this attendance of this CFA member. MFB crew were walking out the door job completed when CFA member arrived This is just one of many instances .

The ongoing industrial dispute has mentally drained many of my colleagues who's moral is at an all-time low . The constant attack on my colleagues by the newspapers and certain politicians has scarred many of us. That said we live in hope that the pain is going to be worth the gain. That the public and firefighters will be better off . That presumptive legislation will be passed and the worry of the dangers of our employment will be acknowledge and recognised so that our families will not be left penalised by the choosing of our profession.

In closing I am proud to be a member of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Service but I will be even prouder to be a member of a combined professional Victorian Service should you the committee decide that the reforms to our organisations are overdue and necessary . Such an announcement will lift moral regenerate our work place and give security to our family members it is the shot in the arm we all need .

I am happy to discuss my experiences over the past 36 years

Thank you for your time

Peter White
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