

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Patrick Gillespie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 10:26 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Inquiry into the firefighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Inquiry into the firefighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017

I am Patrick Gillespie, MFB Firefighter for the last 18 months working out of Pascoe Vale, and Living in Ascot Vale.

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

- When we respond to a fire in Pascoe Vale and the surrounding suburbs, we never fully know what the situation we are about to head into will entail. We don't know how long we will be inside a building, how often we will need to go back inside, or what job needs to be done when we are there. The one thing I do know, however, which I consider to be extremely vital for someone of my relative inexperience, is that If I am the first one through the door, I will have backup only a few moments away. This backup means that if I were to go down inside a building, there is two more qualified and ready firefighters, kitted up and ready to get me out of there. This backup means that if a building were to contain dangerous goods, there is trained professionals ready at a moments notice and dispatched immediately, who have relevant training and experience to handle the situation safely. In a growing city like Melbourne, it's only common sense that that is the standard for all firefighters.
- A guaranteed response in under 8 minutes means more than just better protection for the firefighters on the truck- ultimately, those minutes after a fire ignites are time critical and can mean the difference between someone having a close call or losing their entire home, business, or getting hurt themselves. Time is crucial in minimising risk to the community.
- A unified service for all professional firefighters means standardisation in training & equipment, and a greater workforce that can be adapted as the states needs develop over time.

Yours sincerely,
Patrick Gillespie
[REDACTED]