

Graham Breen



Attention Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Dear Committee Member

As a CFA volunteer of more than 20 years with the Sarsfield Fire Brigade I have grave concerns about the Fire Services Legislation. How such an important piece of legislation could be drafted without adequate reference to the volunteers for their consideration and input is nothing short of insulting. What happened to the "Volunteer Charter"?

I am sure that I would find many more problems if I had the time to thoroughly examine the impact of the legislation, however I draw your attention to the following:

- The inequity of the presumption of cause of cancer as applied to paid firefighters and as applied to volunteers.
- The United Firefighters Union has made it very clear they will not take orders from volunteers or include them in their crews. How are volunteer brigades going to operate where both volunteer brigades and FRV brigades attend an incident? Now the first brigade to attend sets up the control point.
- The avowed intention of the legislation is that the CFA will be staffed by volunteers yet Operations Officer positions are to be filled by FSV, UFU members, not CFA members. What sort of an establishment hotch potch is this? Is the CFA to have all paid administrative positions staffed by FSV i.e. the UFU running the CFA. Perhaps in fact they already are.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Breen,

