

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Ben O'Meara [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 3:44 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to parliament reform committee

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(REFORM) BILL 2017

I am Patrick O'Meara
Station Officer .Operational shift work
Employed by the Metropolitan fire service
I have been employed in excess of 37 years
I Live in Sandhurst and work at Mentone

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

I believe that we should at fires operate with at least a guaranteed 7 firefighters on the fire ground.
Both for efficiency and safety of workers and the community in any emergency situation
This obviously cannot be guaranteed with a volunteer service.

I have no issue with the volunteers as I work with them on a regular basis when turned out from Springvale and Edithvale.

But there is always an inconsistency in their numbers and response times.

I can see no reason why this reform of employing all professionals under one service would affect the volunteer service.

As far as I understand the volunteer service will maintain continuing their respective roles with arrangements with the CFA.

I also believe that all integrated stations and rural services will not be affected by this reform.

As we all know the areas (35 integrated Stations) are highly urbanised now and deserve a full 24/7 service with EMR capabilities.

I personally live in an area that has developed and expanded over the last 10 years and has many shopping complexes,
school , nursing homes ,factories, car volume increase adding to more risk.

To me it makes sense to have a united singular service all trained and skilled to a high standard.

All equipment and specialist skills training would universal, one would think that this would also be a money saver for government.

I have felt that this interruption to business as usual has caused stress amongst workers and family has been significant, moral is at its lowest I have seen in 37 years.

Volunteers should embrace this reform as it provides packages to assist with their recruitment along with funding for station upgrades.

Yours Sincerely
Patrick O'Meara

