



4th July 2017

Attention: Fire Services Bill Committee
LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to take this opportunity to raise my concerns regarding the Fire Services Legislation which the Victorian Government is attempting to rush through Parliament.

I have been a volunteer member of the Violet Town Fire Brigade for 20 years now, serving as Secretary and Crew Leader in that time, and have seen first hand the relationship between CFA and the Victorian communities.

One of my concerns is that the Presumptive Rights (Cancer) legislation does not treat the volunteers equally with paid firefighters. Where a paid firefighter with one of the twelve nominated cancers will automatically receive access to treatment and compensation, a volunteer will have to be “considered” by an unspecified panel and then may be granted coverage. This legislation would treat me like a second class citizen, which is totally unreasonable.

My other concern is the motive behind this legislation, which does not seem to have been thought through at all, and certainly the government has not consulted the very people it will affect. This is not only a matter for the integrated stations to consider, as no one can define what the flow on affect will be for all brigades and the Victorian community. In fact, no one can state how this legislation will be implemented. Just wondering whether this is a very expensive exercise in appeasing the UFU?

Finally, as Victoria is one of the most fire prone regions in the world and that this legislation will affect every Victorian, please consider these key questions:

1. Do you believe that the Victorian Community has been sufficiently consulted and supports this legislation?
2. Are you confident that this legislation will not harm CFA's surge capacity?
3. Do you believe that even with this short inquiry that you know enough about this legislation to risk Victoria's fire safety?

Thank you for considering my submission. I do not wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely

Sheryl Lockwood

