

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Daryl Bowen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 5:47 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Sevices Reform

Dear Committee

I am a professional Fire Fighter with the MFB, with 18 years operational service, I would like to express my support for reform to go ahead and why it is needed.

I would like to explain to you a few experiences I have had in recent times, that show why there is a need for reform. I am a Senior Leading Fire Fighter at the Sunshine fire station, where I have spent 16 years of my service on the Pumper Tanker, Teleboom arial and Heavy Rescue appliances. Our area consists of a large Residential, Heavy industries, Hospitals and Prisons, we often respond to fire calls on the boundaries with the CFA at Caroline Springs, Hillside and Werribee, which are huge growth areas. I recall numerous times when we have turned out with the CFA Volunteers to house and factory fires in these areas, that they are, at times have been unable to provide the proper fire protection required, by either not having enough members Breathing apparatus qualified and not being able to respond with a full crew, because of members not being available or having enough qualifications, i.e. drivers for the appliance, it is through no fault of their own, but often a lack of training available to them. I also recall a time when we turned out to the Metropolitan Remand Centre with Caroline Springs Volunteers, as the full time CFA staff were at another call at one of the other Prisons. The only two Volunteers that were able to respond, turned up in the operations station car and when we queried where their truck was, their response was that they had no qualified drivers for the Tanker, as one was at his Table Tennis night and the other had a family function and had had too much to drink.

I think this reform is well over due and also becoming one professional fire service, would hopefully assist in making our currant and future enterprise bargaining agreements easier to negotiate. I must say that the current morale within our organisation is at an all time low, I know myself, that I have accessed help services, in regards to dealing with the attacks and lies, which have constantly been published in the tabloids and spruked by our politicians for their own party gains, the lack of responsibility from our employer to support and protect its employees from these attacks, has been a disgrace, I can only hope that during the process of reform that this is addressed.

Regards

Daryl Bowen

Senior Leading Fire Fighter with the MFB REG No. 10127