

[REDACTED]
Private and Confidential

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I have been employed as a professional fire fighter with the CFA for two years, and I am currently stationed at the Hoppers Crossing fire brigade. Within the Hoppers Crossing primary area we have major risks such as the Werribee Plaza shopping centre, multiple nursing homes and retirement villages, primary and secondary schools, train stations, industrial areas and huge growth in population.

I have also worked in other stations such as Geelong City, Belmont, Corio, and Caroline Springs. Many of these stations are in highly urbanised areas and rely on Professional Fire-fighters to support into the surrounding volunteer fire fighter serviced areas.

On many occasions whilst responding to primary calls, with support from volunteer brigades, and support calls into volunteer brigade areas, I have seen the safety of both fire-fighters and the community be placed in unnecessary risk due to the lack of properly crewed appliances or lack of numbers responding to incidents.

I have responded to major risk alarm calls with only a crew of 4 fire fighters with none other on route and I have responded to going structure fires with the supporting appliances having no qualified BA operators or structure fire fighting PPC on.

Whilst the support we do receive from our volunteer brigades is valuable, it is not enough. I believe the safety of the community, my work mates and I can be improved through the reform of the current out dated service delivery model.

I respectfully submit that you consider my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented as soon as possible for the morale and safety of all fire fighters in Victoria.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]