

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 July 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

**Categories:** CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST

-CONFIDENTIAL-

I write to express my concern over the state governments proposed restructure of Victoria's fire service and to support our integrated system. Firstly presumptive rights cancer legislation should have bipartisan support with equal rights for both volunteer and paid firefighters to access compensation. The proposed legislation would need amendments to achieve this so that it does not discriminate between paid or volunteer but be recognised as just firefighters, there should be a minimum test to prove exposure to disease causing events but with no cap on time after the event or post service.

Our integrated CFA service works, and allows room for further integration into areas as required into the future without losing volunteers. I note in recent news that the New Zealand fire services are now fully integrated as seems to be a preference world wide. We have led the way on this modelling for decades. I do not accept the governments view that our system needs change and is outdated. There is not one review that recommends dismantling the integrated system. My concerns are by removing the 35 integrated stations or districts from CFA will weaken CFA and its ability to provide its surge capacity and funding. Not only will man power be lost but also the Fire Services Levy funds that are collected currently as CFA districts for CFA to use would pass to FRV. With our current operational CFA system if we have a job requiring more man power we page for more volunteers with trucks from surrounding suburbs and they come.

As a serving volunteer I hear from members that if our integrated stations were lost to the proposed FRV service that the volunteers won't be able to stay in those stations as 'coexisting', two separate services under one roof won't work. We are either integrated or we are not. I don't know of an arrangement like this anywhere. If CFA were to lose their integrated fire stations to FRV, then the CFA should be paid for these stations to build new stations and provide equipment for the volunteers in the same suburb. In the proposed restructure no concession has been given to the fact that the 35 integrated stations were built under the CFA banner in an integrated system and to just give these stations to FRV with no clear direction for CFA volunteers is wrong. The \$100,000,000 set aside by the government towards the restructure could be spent 10 times over to reorganize the fire service.

The simplest solution in looking after our paid counterparts work conditions is to re write their EBA to not include volunteer firefighters or control over volunteer firefighting service. This is where the UFU need to give ground to resolve the paid conditions of CFA staff.

As a born and raised Victorian I feel safe with our current fire service.

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