

To the Fire Services Bill Select Committee

I believe I have a rather unique perspective on the legislation before the Legislative Council of Victoria. As such, I hope the Select Committee will take the time to read my submission on this matter. My current services to various Victoria's emergency agencies is outlined below:

<p>Country Fire Authority (CFA) Volunteer</p> 	<p>Duration of volunteer service: <b>10 years and 5 months</b></p>	
<p>Ambulance Victoria (AV) Volunteer</p> 	<p>Duration of volunteer service: <b>15 years and 9 months</b></p>	
<p>State Emergency Service Craigieburn – Honorary Member</p> 	<p>Honorary member since: <b>August 2014</b></p>	

Other important points:

- ✓ 2011 Australia Day Honours: Ambulance Service Medal for my leadership of volunteers
- ✓ Awarded a scholarship by the Emergency Services Foundation (ESF). Studying recruiting, retaining, and leading volunteers in emergency services both within Australia and throughout Canada and the United States of America (USA).



Los Angeles

Washington DC

New York

I would urge you to vote in favor of the Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017. I can promise you that these changes **will NOT** impact on my passion, enthusiasm or will to volunteer with the Craigieburn CFA. This is despite the hysteria that has been created. I am also part of an integrated Brigade, so am one of the few brigades directly impacted by these changes. Instead, I see this legislation as **bold reform** and as the **circuit breaker** we need to move forward and focus on the delivery of a world class fire service.

I have a unique perspective into the relationship career and volunteer members of emergency services can have. When I started volunteering with AV Craigieburn did not have a 24-hour ambulance and it was my duty as well as my team members to cover this gap. When I was informed Craigieburn's service would upgrade to 24 -hour staffed ambulance station I was delighted. This is because it meant the community received an improved service. I still had and have a role to play as a volunteer but this has changed and you must embrace change. Especially when your community is growing and becoming urbanized. Craigieburn's population was 5000 when I was born. It is now more than 50,000.

My father in law was the 1st Lieutenant and my husband the 2nd Lieutenant at the time Craigieburn CFA integrated from only volunteers to career firefighters and volunteers. The leaders of Craigieburn CFA welcomed this change as it has become increasingly difficult to cover every call. Before the staff arrived, I can recall times we couldn't leave the Craigieburn community because there was nobody else available to respond to fire calls. This placed so much stress on the volunteer firefighters and it was simply not sustainable. It is my experience that volunteers simply cannot be available 24/7 to respond to all incidents as we have other work, family, and personal commitments.

In 2008, the Victorian State Government undertook bold reform to amalgamate Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV) and Metropolitan Ambulance Service (MAS) to form one career ambulance service being Ambulance Victoria (AV). Although this took some time to implement, we are seeing the wonderful success of this reform with ever improving ambulance response times. I believe the amalgamation of career firefighters to Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) will also result in improved outcomes for the community.

I urge you to support the Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017. I can be contacted at any time to discuss this further.

Kindest regards,

**Casey Nunn ASM**

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