

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Danny Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 1:16 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire service review

Danny Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My name is Danny Ward and I am a 61 year old male . I have been a professional career firefighter with the MFB for just over 45 years . In my time as a firefighter I have gained the rank of Senior Leading Firefighter . I have also gained qualifications in the following appliances within the MFB Ladder Platform ,Teleboom ,Water Tanker driver operator ,Gas Flare off operator High Angle Rescue Technician , Transporter driver operator as well as every pumper and pumper tanker within the MFB .

I have also become the Health & Safety representative for D platoon in Central District which covers 6 of the biggest Fire stations within the MFB .

Along my journey within this great job I seen the need to help my fellow firefighters so i also became a Peer Support volunteer of which I am very proud of as mental illness is a growing area within our workplace that I just had to try and give something back to my workmates .

When I first started in the MFB and became more aware of the way the CFA works I was amazed the some of the career staff within the CFA turned out with only 2 firefighters hoping that the volunteers would turn up . I could not believe this as in the MFB we always had at least 3 on every appliance also knowing that there was another truck around the corner . This always gave us at least 7 on the fire ground . You may ask what's so important to have 7 on the fire ground .Well when we turn up at a fire we work in twos with one operating the pump we need for our own safety at least another group of 2 to be ready to either follow the first crew in or for rescue purposes . This is just a briefing explanation of why we need to have that back up coming .

Over the years I have been through many Enterprise bargaining processes but this last one has really brought a lot of unnecessary grief to many firefighters and their families both mentally and physically .

This new model of fire service delivery can only be better for ALL Victorians . It takes away any concerns that career firefighters and their Workplace Agreement will cause any harm or medal in anyway with what volunteers do . It provides the people of Victoria with certainty that they will get a fire service we ALL pay for and deserve .

I cannot begin to tell you all about the grief this dispute has caused to so many of us suffice to say it has almost broken up family's and has broken friendships .

I have briefly tried to put some words together to try to explain my feelings and thoughts on the Fire Service reform but as I'm nearing the end of my time in this most fantastic job I must say we all do a job , a job that can give you the biggest highs but sadly some of the worst moments in my life .

Im not the best at this email capper but feel free to visit me at Richmond Fire station 55 church st Richmond where I will be able to express myself a lot better .

I thank you for letting me address this committee and hope that common sense and truth prevail .

Danny ward