

Terry Hedt

FSBSC Submission 1389

From: Terry Hedt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 10 September 2016 7:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROTECT VOLUNTEER BASED CFA

Bridget McKenzie

Chair ,Education and Employment Legislation Committee I would like to thank you for your support for the CFA Volunteers in these difficult times.

I reside at the small township of Little River off the Princes Freeway between Melbourne and Geelong.

I have been a volunteer Little River CFA member for over 50 years .

I am currently the Brigade Captain and have been for the past 41 years.

I am also currently The Anakie Group Officer and have held this position for the past 10 years.

On Australia day 26th January 2007 I was awarded the AFSM by the Governor General.

On 14th October 2014 I was awarded the National Emergency Medal Victorian 2009 Fires by David Koch MLC On 31st October 2015 I was awarded the 50 Year Medal and Clasp HLM by ACO Bob Barry.

On 31st October 2015 I was awarded the Outstanding Service Medal by CO Euan Ferguson AFSM..

My Volunteer service to the CFA up until early 2016 was both satisfying and rewarding to be able to serve both my local community and the State of Victoria , the relationship in our District 7 CFA management changed with a strong UFU union led group of operational staff becoming abusive to both myself and other Group and Brigade leaders there is no doubt in my mind this was outlandish Bullying by these officers towards the Volunteers to the point I asked ACO at District 7 Mr Bob Barry to my home to inform him of the abuse I received from an Operational Officer for asking a simple Question at a District Planning Committee meeting in February 2016 .

ACO Barry told me this was not on and he was going to follow up with the District 7 Operational Staff which I believe he did because the Officers concerned have not spoken to me since the February 2016 meeting .

This is just one personal example and I could go on and on with what has been occurring with other senior Brigade people in District 7 Myself and many Senior Brigade Volunteers have lost all respect for the very people who are supposed to be there to support us as Volunteers .

If the UFU /EBA with the current terms and conditions proposed by the union is signed off this will be the end of the biggest Volunteer Emergency Service Organization in the world will become redundant as a large majority of members will just walk away from CFA as unpaid dedicated volunteers we will not tolerate being controlled by a Militant Selfish Greedy Power Seeking Union Leader and his Cronies controlling The CFA Board and the Chief Officer in their roles of running the CFA something they have done with great success since the CFA was first formed.

The Volunteers of the CFA have 95% approval of the general community across Victoria who would be devastated to have this great organization controlled by the Union.

We are all hoping that this drawn out bitter dispute started by the UFU will be decided in favour of the 60,000 CFA volunteers who oppose such a deal.

We are now relying on your committee to review our concerns and convince the upper house Senators to protect all Volunteer organizations across Australia from this ever happening again.

Many Thanks [REDACTED]

Terry Hedt AFSM
Anakie Group Officer