

From: Sam Nalder
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: Fire services reform.
Date: Friday, 7 July 2017 4:27:02 PM

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Inquiry into the Fire fighter's Presumptive rights compensation and Fire Services legislation amendment (Reform) bill 2017.

My name is Samuel Nalder and I am currently employed by the CFA as a Career Fire Fighter, where I have worked at Rowville, then moving to the Traralgon Fire Station. I have been employed by the CFA for 2.9 years.

Before working for the CFA, I was a volunteer at the CFA Mt Taylor Fire brigade for 5 years. It was during this time I became aware that the CFA employed career fire fighters and which started me down the long journey of joining the CFA full time.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons.

- By having 7 fire fighters turn up for the job, this will improve safety on the fire ground as this will allow, 1 incident controller, 2 BA teams (each team has two fire fighters), 1 running the pump and 1 spare to help where required. At the moment we have 5 and other stations only have 3 fire fighter's arriving at the job, putting fire fighters lives at risk. Yes other volunteer stations are paged, but a volunteer response is not guaranteed. This is not the fault of the volunteer as they may be at work, have some distance to travel to the fire station or have family commitments. They may be waiting for a driver or team leader so they can respond the appliance. The training they have received isn't relevant for the job eg. The call may be for BA wearers and they may not have that qualification. On the other hand, they may have all of these things and be out the door relatively quickly which is great. The problem is that it isn't guaranteed.
- By having a staff station that travels a timed distance from the station, this means volunteers and the community will be better supported by the staff. At the moment, the staff will only turn out if it is in their primary support role, or if it has been agreed by the volunteer Captain by neighbouring brigades. This is unworkable and unsafe, not only for fire fighters (volunteer or staff) but for the public as well. What happens now is that in certain areas, eg Rowville, 3 or more volunteer stations are paged and not have turned out, before the integrated station is paged. This means that people could be waiting for extended periods of time before receiving help.
- As the CFA will only be looking after Volunteers, this will allow them solely focus on their needs. If we look at just training as an example. At the moment the training department looks after both volunteers and staff. When a recruit first starts at a station he/she has different modules/units that they need to complete to continue their training, much like an apprenticeship. This requires extra training on and off the station. This ties up the trainers' time. Volunteers, once they have done minimum skills, there is not requirement for them to do additional courses. This doesn't mean they can't apply for additional courses that they would like to do, but as the trainers are already tied up with other training, this can make it harder for courses to be run.
- With having one fire service, it will allow all career staff to be employed by one service. This means that training that is slightly different between the MFB and the CFA will now become aligned. The equipment that is stowed on vehicles will become the same. There will only need to be one supplier for all consumables, vehicles, uniforms, equipment etc. the radio system will be the same. This doesn't seem like much, but when you have one appliance responding from a MFB area and one from a CFA area, the radios are different types and won't talk to each other. This means that in these areas, the MFB and CFA carry double the amount of radios required so they can communicate to each other. That seems a waste of money and resource. This is just one example, but there are

many.

If you have any queries or questions about the above information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Samuel Nalder

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]



This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.