

Prue Purdey

From: glenn sutton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 12:19 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire service reform

Hi

I am Glenn Sutton a Firefighter employed by the MFB in the Melbourne Metroplitan Fire District.

I am currently employed as an Acting Senior Station Officer at the Burnley Complex in Richmond. I work presently in the Fire Safety Directorate.

I have 28 years experience in the fire industry. I have trained extensively for fire fighting operations. I have enhanced my value to the organisation and the community through the acquisition of additional skills through specialist areas such as fire investigation, HazMat operator, aerial appliances, officer courses and in the last four years involvement in the building approval space.

I support Fire Service reform as our communities have changed dramatically over the last 10 -20 years in how we live (high rise etc) and the higher level of expectation and responsibility placed on Fire Services (Black Saturday) etc. Victoria and Melbourne have changed dramatically and yet our fire services are almost the same model that they have been for the last 50 years.

High rise buildings are a new response challenge to Fire Services. The buildings demand a high level of response capability and a high level of design scrutiny . It is also worth noting that the ageing population has led to extensive money being spent on hospitals which again are presenting responding fire crews with greater challenges as they have to deal with larger buildings with greater numbers of non ambulent people inside.

The need to ensure we can meet modern challenges in the built environment will come down to adequate funding and training for fire fighters. Supporting this is the maxim that fire waits for no one, and an early intervention is the most likely reason for a good outcome. Full time and locally available fire crews are a positive way to ensure this.

The dispute that has now been a constant in my work place over the last couple of years takes its toll. Firefighters tend to quietly get the job done. We are always there and have always been well respected in the community for this . To have been made into a political football of late has demeaned our standing in the community and left me feeling less a part of the community I have dedicated 28 years of my life to. I know I am speaking on behalf of many others when I write this.

I hope this communication is found supportive for fire service change and is taken in the spirit of what is good for the community and does not become purely a political decision for votes.

Regards

Glenn Sutton