

Prue Purdey

From: Renard Swanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 7:49 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Bill Select Committee Submission

To the honourable members of the Fire Service Bill Select Committee,

My full name is Renard Douglas Swanson and I am a Firefighter within the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) currently at the rank of Firefighter Level 2 and stationed at Fire Station 6, Pascoe Vale. I joined the MFB in 2015 and prior to this spent over 16 years as a Police Officer.

My career to date in the MFB has been under the constant cloud of the ongoing industrial dispute. I believe the negative press relating to Firefighters, and particularly those within the MFB, has muddied the public view of what was once a highly valued occupation.

I believe the Fire Services reform will bring an end to the negativity surrounding Firefighters and their role and provide a new platform whereby the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and MFB can unite for what is ultimately in the best interests of those Victorians living in urban areas outside the Metropolitan Fire District (MFD). My elderly parents who live in a CFA protected urban area not only miss out on the same fire response my family has in inner Melbourne, they also miss out on the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) that the MFB provides to the MFD. My parents deserve the same fire response and opportunity for early lifesaving intervention as my elderly neighbours.

As a relatively new member of the MFB, I hold a long term view of my career as a Firefighter and I would like to see a common sense approach to the future of the Fire Services in Victoria and the unification of what is currently two separate urban fire services. I would also like to see an end to the long running industrial dispute as the uncertainty of the future of Firefighters has caused significant mental anguish for my colleagues and I at one time or another.

Coming from a Federal and State policing background, I have been extremely impressed by the professionalism of my MFB colleagues and their genuine commitment to the community. Having one professional firefighting organisation makes sense for Victoria and common sense should prevail.

Please contact me if you require anything further.

Best regards,

Renard Swanson