

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 2 July 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire services reform

To The Fire Services Reform Bill Select  
Committee,

I have been a career fire fighter with the MFB for 26 years.

I write to support the Fire Services Reform currently before state parliament.

For me as a fire fighter it is very simple . From a fire fighting point of view fires, it has never been more dangerous for both fire fighters and the general public. The type of materials used to make modern furniture, appliances and building products coupled with the lightweight construction methods employed for building means that fires burn many times quicker than in the past , a lot hotter, the smoke is blacker and thicker and buildings collapse more quickly. This has been clearly demonstrated in scientific testing.

The increase in housing density and the widespread use of modern chemicals used in industrial products and processes throughout urban areas also significantly increases the dangers involved in dealing with fires and incidents in these areas.

It is the first few minutes at a fire scene when the situation is often chaotic that it is most dangerous, and the need to have fully trained personnel on scene as quickly as possible for fire fighter safety and the safety of the general public cannot be overstated.

The critical part of having a chance to save life and property involving these fires is **time**. The earlier fire fighters get on scene the more chance they have to rescue people or to contain the fire to possibly just a room instead of the whole house and other buildings.

The greatest change to my job as a fire fighter was the introduction of Emergency Medical Response. This initiative has been a fantastic program for the general public with the benefits documented in the many number of lives this program has saved. This is again a **time** critical response and should be available to as much of the population as possible.

I have a great deal of respect for volunteer fire fighters and the work that they do. But no matter how good their intentions are , if they are not at the fire station when they get paged it takes a lot of time to get to the station, get their turnout uniform and proceed to the call.  
Critical early intervention minutes have passed.

Melbourne has grown massively in the past 60 years and all of the services have expanded with it, police, ambulance ,healthcare and educational facilities just to name a few. Yet the fire service is stuck in a time warp. Having these areas covered by the proposed Fire Services Victoria that will provide continuity of personnel, equipment ,procedures, training and communications is a logical step. In a world where the threat of terrorism is ever present the need for the most cohesive and efficient fire service has never been more important.

The legislation also deals with presumptive rights in regards to certain cancers. In this case the research clearly indicates the increased risk to fire fighters contracting the cancers. Having seen several colleagues suffer from not only the physical consequences of this disease but also the mental and financial consequences, I urge you to support this legislation.

In closing, I would like you to ask yourself to consider this. “ Is it better for as many Victorians as possible to be protected by a full time fire service that will respond to a fire call in 90seconds, or am I prepared to let the status quo remain despite of the massive growth and change in Victoria over the past 60 years”?

It is not possible for everyone to be covered by a full time service ,but the time has come to bring suburban/urban Melbourne and the other cities within Victoria into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This legislation will do that.

This is not about politics or a turf war between career and volunteer fire fighters, it is about what is best for the community

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I

**hereby request confidentiality in regards to my submission and personal details**