



ANDREW BISHOP

07/07/2017 02:51 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc "io3@ufuvic.asn.au"
<io3@ufuvic.asn.au>
bcc
Subject Fire Services Submission

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept my short submission, I am happy for this to be made public with the exception of my contact details.

Regards

Andrew Bishop, Firefighter

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**Fire Services Bill
Select Committee**

Dear Members,

I write this submission in support of the proposed bill that has been introduced by the Andrews Government.

I have been involved in firefighting since early 1984 until present, with my service being as follows.

- CFA Volunteer, 1/1984 – 1/1996, 6/2005 – present
- Air Services Australia, 1/1986 – 1/1988
- MFB, 1/1988 – 12/1998
- Broadspectrum Fire & Rescue, 12/2015 – present

In this time, I have seen considerable changes to the fire services that serve the state of Victoria. The demands that are being placed on the service are for ever increasing and the time that is required from a volunteer is also dramatically increasing.

From the information that I have been able to view, the proposed changes will not have any adverse effect on the provision of the required service. These proposed changes will only increase the protection to the people of Victoria.

At the present time, there is no guarantee that volunteers will be able to respond, I have seen this regularly with the local brigade that I volunteer with. Many times, I have responded to the station waiting for a crew to arrive, for which they do not come. This is more evident during business hours when volunteers are at work. Only this week, I responded to an automatic fire alarm in the truck by myself after the Brigade Captain called me on my phone to advise that he would meet me at the location. I was on scene for several minutes before his arrival.

The VFBV which claims to represent approximately 60000 volunteers, but does not have individual membership, only brigade membership, does not represent the views of the greater community. In the 33 years of my firefighting, I have witnessed them trying to push back on change being introduced due to “tradition”. The time has come for these changes to be introduced with the full support of the parliament.

Whilst this submission is short, I would be happy to appear in front of the Select Committee to further explain my thoughts and reasons behind my views.

Regards

Andrew Bishop

