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07/07/2017 04:51 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
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Subject Fwd:

To whom it may concern,

I have been a career firefighter with the CFA for almost 7 years. Preceding this career, I worked as a Fire and Incident Report Taker for CFA, which gave me my first insights into differences between career and volunteer personnel. Working at an integrated station my entire operational career has given me a practical opportunity to see how this model works; over protracted and day to day incidents. It is these experiences that encourage me to lend my full support for fire services reform with hope that finally our leaders will finally treat the fire service as the emergency service it is and not a community club- To do what is best for our communities. Some of my reasons include:

Impact on fire service delivery across Victoria

- False perceived cost saving of volunteers

I have relieved at many of the District 8 (Southern Metropolitan) integrated brigades. I have seen first-hand, across days, nights and weekends, the lack of volunteer turnout during an incident in comparison to the members that are on the station books as available for calls. Even for protracted incidents where they have time to plan, generally their availability drops off after a week. However, the cost of personal protective equipment (one set is approximately \$2000), fully volunteer support brigades that are not required for support of integrated stations (millions of dollars in property and equipment not utilised other than a clubhouse, examples such as Keysborough, Noble Park, Hampton Park) is not an efficient use of the publics money.

- Cost to the community

I have been to many incidents where staff have been turned around due to egos and turf wars. Volunteer brigades not wanting a staff station to respond in their area because it takes away from their opportunity to "play firefighter". The inability of CFA management to control turnout due personalities and politics is costing people their lives and property. At my current station in Dandenong we have begged for our Road Accident Rescue appliance to be co responded to surrounding rescue brigades who regularly don't turnout (Knox SES), only to be told that the SES volunteers don't want us responded to their area. They can always turn us around if we are not needed however the risk of them loosing an opportunity to use their tools means more to them then the outcome of a patient.

These are only some of many arguments that many will have. I believe if you truly consider what is best our Victorian communities, and solely rely on that to determine your decision, you will realise that the current fire service is in desperate need for these reforms.

Kind regards

██████████ **Firefighter**