

**Emily Trimble**

06/07/2017 09:01 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Services Reform Submission

1 attachment



**Fire Services Reform Submission - LFF E TRIMBLE.docx**

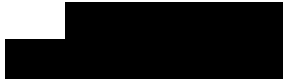
Please find attached my submission for the committee considering the fire service reform.

Your faithfully,

Emily Trimble

Leading Fire Fighter

Metropolitan Fire Brigade

Emily Trimble  


To the Fire Services Reform Committee:  
*Via email: consultation@dpc.vic.gov.au*

Re: Fire Services Reform Submission

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My name is Emily Trimble, I am a Leading Fire Fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, currently working at Burwood Fire Station and I hold the following qualifications;

- Teleboom Operator
- Breathing Apparatus Qualified
- 60 Series Pumper & Pumper Tanker
- Water Tanker
- Emergency Medical Response
- Mark 4 Pumper & Pumper Tanker
- Mark 5 Pumper & Pumper Tanker

My role as a fire fighter includes but is not limited to;

- suppression of all types of fires
- urban search and rescue
- high angle rescue
- road accident rescue
- emergency medical response (EMR)
- emergencies on waters in Port Phillip Bay and the metropolitan river system
- industrial accidents and hazardous material handling and storage incidents
- assisting other combat agencies in emergencies.
- educating the community about fire safety
- working with diverse community groups, across all age groups, to promote emergency prevention and preparedness activities through a variety of community resilience programs.
- training - skills maintenance and acquisition
- maintenance of equipment
- involvement in exercises with the public through evacuation drills
- installing smoke alarms for senior Victorians
- participation in joint emergency training exercises with the Police and Ambulance Victoria
- building inspections
- checking water supplies
- cleaning vehicles and maintenance of fire station.

I am in full support of the fire services reform for many reasons. On several occasions while on duty I have experienced a lack of 'back up' when turning out to areas that are not manned by professional fire fighters. This is not to say that

volunteers do not do a great job, but when they have to be paged, leave their place of residence/workplace, get to the station and then turnout... this could be in most cases after the very important 7.7minute mark where research has shown that after this time the fire will most likely leave the room of origin and the damage to property and the chance of loss of lives become very likely.

The current 'urban' areas of Melbourne are grossly out of date. This leaves people not living in the MFB (or CFA integrated stations) areas not getting the same service that their fire services levies are paying for.

Living in the area where professional fire fighters covers have several benefits;

- Faster response time
- Minimum of 7 professional fire fighters
- All professional fire fighters can enter a structure fire to search for missing people (BA qualified) – some volunteers do not hold this qualification and can only fight the fire from the outside.
- Emergency Medical Response Qualified (maintain life until ambulance arrive). We have has several 'saves' where people who would have died had the fire services not started this initiative working with Ambulance Victoria.

I live close to Warragul which is a large country town consisting of a large hospital, shopping centres, nursing homes and industrial sites. Warragul does have a volunteer fire brigade, but given the growth in Warragul over the last 60 years, I think it is not unrealistic to expect that a town like this be covered 24/7 by professional fire fighters.

I am very conscious of the time and effort that volunteers make to be of service to their community and their dedication is truly admirable, but I think that most level headed people that care about their community would also like to see the reform only to improve the service to the community and see better outcomes from these unfortunate emergency events.

The last 3+ years have seen me from being a proud public servant to being unwilling to tell new people I meet my profession because we have been painted in such a nasty light in the media that I fear peoples reaction. Doing my job as a fire fighter has always been rewarding despite there being numerous difficult scenarios to work through mentally and physically, it has been my most satisfying career. Coming to a resolution with the current state of the fire services would be an immense stress relief for me, my husband and my children. I sincerely hope that the committee can see that the reform is the best step forward in protecting the community.

Yours faithfully,  
 Emily Trimble  
 Leading Fire Fighter  
 Metropolitan Fire Brigade  
 Registration Number: [REDACTED]