



[REDACTED]
07/07/2017 12:45 PM

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

1 attachment



Fire Services Reform.docx

To Whom It May Concern

Attached is my submission regarding Fire Services Reform for consideration by the Select Committee.

I wish to keep my name, address and phone number CONFIDENTIAL from publishing in any form.

Once again I reiterate, I DO NOT wish for my name, address, or phone number to be published in any way.

Regards

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Firefighter in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I am 25 years old and have been a Professional Firefighter for 3 years. I am currently stationed at Footscray Fire Station and have spent most of my 3 years in the brigade stationed at Eastern Hill Fire Station in East Melbourne.

I believe there should be fire service reform in Victoria. Fire service delivery in Victoria would be streamlined especially in the newly urbanised areas that are becoming increasingly populated with domestic housing and infrastructure. These areas need 24 hour fire protection all year round in order to prevent catastrophic loss of life and property. With 24 hour protection in these areas people can sleep safe at night knowing that they will get a Fire Truck on scene within 7.7 minutes. I do not believe volunteer stations in these areas need to be affected in any way. They can continue to do the same job they have always done. As professional firefighters will continue to do the same job. Volunteer firefighters will still turn out to emergencies in these and surrounding areas which only increases the chances of containing fire to room of origin. The added benefit of having both volunteer and Professionals on scene together in these areas means that together we will be able to make scenes safer for firefighters. The argument that volunteer numbers will diminish if reform goes ahead only highlights the selfish volunteer who feels the need to protect his/her patch. I believe most volunteers become volunteers to help protect their community. And this underlying value of protecting the community should be the sole motivation in fire services reform.

I urge the Committee to also consider the ongoing mental health and morale levels of firefighters in Victoria. The constant conflict and bickering between Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) and Professional firefighters on social media and print media needs to stop and I believe reform can pave the way for a more harmonious and effective fire service delivery in Victoria.

Regards,

[REDACTED]