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07/07/2017 02:30 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Confidential submission regarding Fire
Services Reform

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish for my name to remain confidential but am happy for the contents of my submission to be made public.

I fully support the proposed reforms to Victoria's fire services.

I have been employed in emergency services in Victoria for 22 years. I currently work as a fire dispatcher in Melbourne at Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA). I have performed this role for the better part of 10 years.

ESTA Melbourne manage fire dispatch to all of MFB and also the 4 busiest CFA regions being 7, 8, 13 & 14. These 4 regions constitute 80% of CFA's work across the state. They cover the major urban growth corridors around Melbourne as well as Geelong.

Procedures around responding to fires that are in an area covered by CFA staff stations are of the highest level of speed, efficiency and professionalism. The same cannot be said for non staff CFA areas. The volunteers themselves are absolutely amazing and shining examples of the best of our communities. Their dedication to maintaining their skills and training is phenomenal. The simple problem we currently have is we cannot guarantee turnout times as those volunteer areas do not have manned fire stations. As a dispatcher I have to wait sometimes up to 6-8 minutes before I know no-one from a brigade has turned out. I then have to page out another brigade and go through the whole waiting period again. By that stage your house has potentially burnt down. It's a dreadful stress for all concerned.

I understand that in more remote communities the volunteer model is the only option but it is negligent to leave literally 100's of thousands of homes unprotected in this way in our most populated areas. We need fire fighters at fire stations who can turnout immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone