

Prue Purdey

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 June 2017 11:21 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

mr samuel watterson
[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My Name is Samuel Watterson and I submit the following for consideration by the select committee. I am a career firefighter and hold the rank of Station Officer at Cranbourne CFA I have received the national emergency medal for black Saturday I have received the national medal for distinguished service I have received CFA's long service medal 15 year clasp I have been a member of CFA for 18 years as both a volunteer member and a career member.

I submit that the fire services desperately need modernising. I have worked and volunteered in outer metropolitan Melbourne over many years and have seen volunteer response times continuously rise. This is in no way a poor reflection of volunteers who do their best to maintain a service to the community, however an indictment on successive governments who have failed to implement modern reform to address the growing needs of the community. As a career firefighter, I have had a roof collapse on me whilst I was searching for survivors inside a burning building by myself. The local volunteer brigade did not respond therefore I was without any help and had to crawl out of the debris by myself. I sustained burns to my leg. I have also witnessed on many, many occasions brigades fail to respond at all, or without appropriately qualified crews. This is a daily occurrence in outer metro Melbourne and has and will continue to lead to poor service delivery to the community. Urgent and immediate reform must finally be implemented to address the many deficiencies in service delivery to outer metro and large regional centres. Volunteers have and will continue to be vital to Victorians, however it is unfair on the community that much of urban Victoria is without a professional fire and emergency service. The community deserves a modern service capable of meeting the needs of Victoria's booming population.

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File1:

File2:

File3: