

Kirra Vanzetti

From: ROBERT IRVING [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 9:39 AM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Volunteer & Community Submissions to Upper House Select Committee Inquiry into Fire Services Restructure Proposal

Dear Committee,

I entirely support the implementation of a fully paid fulltime fire service in outer metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres in Victoria. The number of calls they attend and their potential complexity necessitate this. Volunteer brigades attending 800 calls a year is unacceptable.

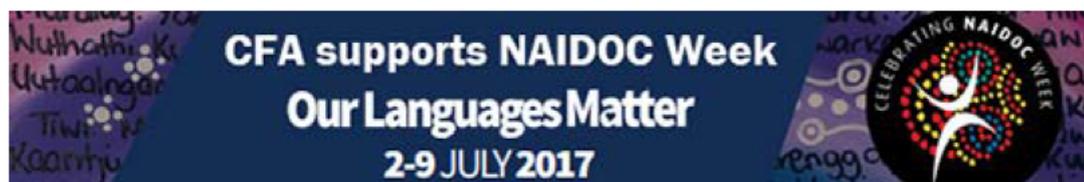
This service should work seamlessly with the neighbouring volunteer fire brigades. Currently there is a Memorandum of Understanding between CFA and MFB at their interface. Something like this may need to occur.

The proposal has mentioned use of Fire Rescue Victoria officers for Operations Officer and Operations Manager roles and Instructor roles. This is fine in the interim. However, future such positions should be made available to whomsoever meets the key selection criteria for these roles. This includes volunteers who wish to transition into such a job. Many volunteers have excellent and proven management and operational skills acquire within the fire service and in their broader life experience.

I cannot imagine how current volunteer brigades at integrated stations can continue to exist. There will be no funding for them from the fire services levy. Their membership will not be utilized by Fire Rescue Victoria. Their demise is inevitable. Some members will move to neighbouring volunteer brigades. Others will cease being fire service volunteers.

This will result in significantly reduced overall volunteer numbers available for large and protracted bushfires, which occur every few years. Clever people will have to come up with clever ways to overcome this. This could involve greater use of SES in staging area and admin roles in IMTs, greater use of the army, greater expenditure on overtime for Fire Rescue Victoria officers, greater draw on interstate volunteers.

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