

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:28 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 Keith Ross  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Committee Members,

I am a volunteer fire fighter from Monbulk Fire Brigade and wish to make a submission to the committee regarding the proposed fire services reform legislation.

Whilst not fundamentally opposed to fire services reform, I have grave reservations regarding the current proposal.

Firstly, whilst I support the introduction of presumptive legislation, I am fundamentally opposed to it being tied to other fire services reform legislation. This is a separate matter and should be dealt with a stand alone bill. I also feel the legislation in its current form is flawed and potentially undermines existing compensation structures, which is obviously not the intent of the legislation. These issues have been expressed more succinctly by Jack Rush (QC) in various documents available in the public domain.

Secondly, this legislation is being thrust through the parliament at such speed, there has been little or no consultation with the most important stakeholders, the volunteers themselves. Compare this to the recent reform of the New Zealand Fire Services, where public consultation began 5 years ago and the most suitable model was to have an integrated single fire service, a model very similar to that of the current CFA, comprising both career and volunteer firefighters. I would support such a move here in Victoria, rather than creating two separate organisations where confusion would reign in metropolitan fringe areas as to who does what and under what circumstances. Currently there is no confusion and the notion that somehow half of Melbourne is currently being let down by a 1950's fire services delivery model is at best a gross misrepresentation. The current model actually allows for the expansion of career fire service personnel and stations depending on workload and community needs and has been successfully implemented for sometime after the 1950s.

Currently CFA volunteers account for 95 % of the states fire fighting capacity, The CFA is unique in its ability to respond to major incidents with volunteer surge capabilities. The CFA is considered one of the premier fire fighting organisations in the world. I don't particularly care what badge I wear when I fight fires, nor if my volunteer services are taken over by paid staff in the future. As a Victorian, I want the best fire service delivery model to be employed. I do not see it any of the legislation you are currently reviewing, this legislation is an unnecessary step backwards for the state.

The community of Victoria deserves the best fire service delivery model. Consult the community this reform affects before re-inventing the wheel.

Yours sincerely

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File1:

File2:

File3: