

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My name is Leading Firefighter Jay McLellan. I have been an operational Firefighter for eight years with the MFB. I began my career in Windsor but over time have made my way out to the Eastern fringe of the Metropolitan Fire District and I am now stationed at Nunawading.

I have taken the time to write this email in order to convey my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I'm sure that you have read a great number of submissions in support of the reform, detailing a vast amount of reasons encouraging change. I would like to keep my submission brief and personal in nature. I hope that it is viewed as an accompanying document to my colleague's submissions, as opposed to an all-encompassing argument for reform.

As stated, there are many important reasons why reform of the fire services is imperative. I would like to focus on the reason that I find to be most important; safety of the community whom we serve.

By the time you read my submission, I'm sure you will have a concise understanding of a number of benefits afforded by a career staffed fire service. Benefits such as:

- More efficient response times
- High and consistent levels of Firefighter training
- A broader scope of service (specifically Emergency Medical Response)

The power and importance of these benefits cannot be understated. Firefighters experience the impact of these benefits on the community every day. We work in a time critical environment that is commonly impacted by seconds and minutes. In my eight year career, I have responded to a countless number of medical emergencies (I would estimate this number to be somewhere around 100). All of these calls were time critical and only a small number rendered a positive result with the patient being revived and transported to hospital with a pulse. These few were given another chance and they all have a number of things in common.

- The moment when they became pulseless and non-breathing was witnessed.
- The witness acted on this and called 000.
- Emergency services arrived very quickly and performed their duties confidently and to high level.

I realised quite early in my career that, although the number of positive outcomes from EMR are few, the ripple effect that carries on to their loved ones touches many lives. The same principle is true for grief. This was vividly illustrated to me for the first time seven years ago, when I attended a SIDS case. This was by far the worst call that I have ever attended. The detail that I remember most explicitly, is the vision of

the baby's Mother, whose whole world had been destroyed. A family had been torn apart and the damage would be far reaching.

Every day there are emergencies that are time critical. The response time and training standard of Firefighters directly influences life and death. While this reform will not change the world if it is passed, it is guaranteed to change the world of individual people that will receive a more comprehensive service.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leading Firefighter Jay McLellan