



Justyn Brennan [REDACTED]  
07/07/2017 04:42 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire service reform

> To the Inquiry Committee,  
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> My name is Justyn Brennan, and I am a second year full time firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB); I am currently based at Epping fire station.  
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> I am writing to the committee to express my support for the proposed changes to the fire services.  
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> I live in Viewbank, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. I am currently covered by a full time fire service.  
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> As a committee, I am sure you have received many submission regarding the benefits of a full time fire service and have been provided with a great deal of information as to the need for a timely responses when dealing with fires and the devastating affects that can be experienced the longer it takes to intervene. So I won't repeat what I am sure you are aware of by now, but to say that as a firefighter it is also important to me, and to my family, to know that when I attend a fire that I have the coverage of further firefighters behind me in "covering my back" should I get into trouble; at the moment on the suburban fringes this is not always guaranteed in a timely manner. One further point is that sometimes effective fire fighting requires numbers and equipment on the ground in a timely manner, a full time fire service can provide a guarantee to provide this service.  
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> An area of full time fire service delivery, that I feel is underestimated to some degree, is the providing of an Emergency Medical Response (EMR) capacity. Having the capability to send a fire truck with trained EMR personal on it to a cardiac arrest or serious medical incident, when time is so important, is an added benefit to the community. For example, In a cardiac arrest situation where it is agreed that early intervention, early CPR and early defibrillation go along way to a successful outcome for the victim, time is important; having a full time fire service in an area with the ability to be on the road in a timely manner with the skills and equipment can be an an important link in assisting the process to be successful. I have experienced first hand how time is so important in a cardiac arrest situation; ten years ago my father had a cardiac arrest, and my mother provided CPR. Unfortunately no fire truck was sent and the ambulance took a considerable time to arrive. The ambulance crew and all involved were fantastic and they were able to get my father breathing, but unfortunately a lack of oxygen to his brain meant that a week or so later he passed away in hospital. Perhaps some early intervention could have made the difference in our particular instance, and this is why I am a firm believer in the EMR capacity that the fire service provide.  
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> I would like to also express my support for the volunteers and the wonderful job that they do. The volunteers give up their time to attend jobs and train, and they will always be important in the providing of a fire service. Unfortunately, Melbourne and some of our rural cities are expanding and their populations are growing; this would also coincide with an increased number of responses required, which in some area that are very suburban, draws upon our volunteers more and more. The volunteers have jobs and families, then on top of that they are being expected to provide a timely response and cater for an increasing population in some of their areas; as I see it, this is potentially

placing more strains and pressures upon the volunteers, their families and their employers, whilst they are also undertaking a role that is quiet demanding and can be mentally taxing. Further to this, The days of people working in their own areas is a thing of the past and more and more people that live on the fringes, may work in the city or further than a few minutes drive from home, particularly in amongst the ever increasing traffic environment of our cities. The concept of volunteerism is to fill positions that need filling to fill a need; providing a full time service in an area can potential lessen the workload and take pressure off the volunteers to be meeting the ever increasing needs of a growing population. We are all paying a fire service levy in the hope of getting a better service for all.

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> I think that this an opportunity to have a look at the way fire service is provided to the community, not only now but into the future. Bring the two full time services together can have the added benefits of standardisation of equipment, training and processes, which can only be of benefit to the operators. I again would like to express my support for the proposed changes to the fire services.

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> Yours sincerely

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> Justyn Brennan

> Firefighter (MFB)

> Phone: [REDACTED]

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