

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Mark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 June 2017 10:29 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Mark William Daniel, I am a Station Officer with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne. I have been employed continuously as a Firefighter for over thirty-one years.

I live at [REDACTED] in rural Victoria.

I hold an Associate Diploma of Applied Science, Fire Technology. I also hold a current Certificate iv Training and Assessing.

I am qualified as a Heavy Rescue Operator, which includes Road Rescue.

I was awarded a Chief Officers Commendation in 1995 for the rescue and successful resuscitation of a young child from a house fire.

During my career I have had the privilege of working with Firefighters from many different organisations, including both career and volunteer from both Victoria and interstate.

I write this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services as I feel it is imperative for the safety of both the community and all firefighters.

As urban areas around Melbourne and provincial cities in rural Victoria have continued to grow dramatically, it is unfortunate that the appropriate level of Fire Service protection has

not kept pace. From my experience as a firefighter I know it is essential to have seven firefighters dispatched to an emergency situation in a timely manner (8 minutes). The reason

for this is to ensure sufficient personnel to safely and expediently deal with the incident. I feel that the best way for you to understand this premise is to describe the fire incident in

1995, where the crew of Teleboom 44 (Sunshine Fire Station) rescued and resuscitated a five year old boy with the assistance of the crew of Pumper 47 (Footscay Fire Station).

Within 7 minutes of being despatched we arrived on scene. On our approach the intensity of the fire was evident against the night sky. As we stopped in front of the house, which was

burning through the roof, a woman frantically screamed "my babies are inside". Myself and another Firefighter entered the burning house to commence searching for the two missing

children, the other two Firefighters on my crew established water supply from street mains to our pumping appliance, ran firefighting lines, communicated by radio the situation to

headquarters and actively commenced firefighting while controlling a large number of neighbours that were putting themselves at risk attempting to assist. We quickly discovered an

unconscious young boy in a bathroom at the rear of the house. As we took the boy outside, the crew of Pumper 47 which had arrived just minutes after us, took over the search for the

boy's sister while we commenced CPR in an attempt to resuscitate the boy. By this time the roof was starting to collapse. We maintained resuscitation on the boy until Ambulance crews took over.

The boy did not regain consciousness during resuscitation and was taken to hospital, where he made a full recovery. Despite the best efforts of both crews (8 Firefighters) we were

unable to locate and rescue the boy's sister before partial collapse of the roof. The scene I just detailed took place in six to seven minutes, I can only imagine how much more

stressful and dangerous it would have been had a second crew not arrived within minutes. As I recount this incident, which I have done many times in my own mind, I can only hope

that it serves to highlight the importance of "seven dispatched to the fireground" for the safety of both the community and firefighters.

I also want to tell you how damaging the current Industrial dispute is to the morale and wellbeing of all firefighters, both career and volunteer alike. We all perform our role for the

community and our job is difficult enough without being used as a political tool. I challenge politicians who seek to demonise firefighters for political gain to examine the facts and act in

good conscience. It is time to return the CFA to its roots as a volunteer rural fire service and bring all Victorian career firefighters, both MFB and career CFA together under one Fire

Service, that can better serve and protect all Victorians.

Sincerely

Station Officer Mark Daniel