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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
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Subject Fire Reform.

I am currently employed as a professional firefighter with the MFB for over 13years. I am proud of what the MFB can do within our current boundary with world class outcomes for the community and paramount safety policy and procedures for our firefighters. ie 7 firefighters on the fire ground. The MFB ,has firefighters with exceptional qualifications and expanded roles in EMR which has been going for more then 15years. The current MFB population is very privileged to have this high level of service and regard for firefighters. But the need to expand these boundaries to meet population growth and provide the same levels of service and firefighter safety to all of Metropolitan Melbourne is now required.I am sure 50years ago the volunteers in there full time jobs had the capacity to leave at a moments notice to attend a fire call. I question the ability with the current productive indicators for organisations and business, that the level of flexibility required to be an active volunteer firefighter is not the same, that is needed to meet the demands of the current fire services. Can a volunteer be in an appliance, in full PPE on the way to a job in 90secs? Can a Volunteer manned appliance be fully manned and arrive at the fire ground within 7mins at each and every emergency? If this volunteer truck does not arrive, what about the safety of the crew that has arrived?

I question the current CFA model of practise with professional and volunteer firefighters that it is able to provide the same level of response, crew safety, assets protection that the current MFB service model provides. With this in mind and the fact that I currently reside within a CFA boundary, with both Professional and volunteer manned stations I want to have the same level of response for me and my families safety and asset protection. But most importantly I want ALL professional firefighters to have the trust and knowledge that at every fire call, that their own personal safety and protection is of paramount importance. The only way this would be possible is to have professionally manned stations in all metropolitan Melbourne. Best practise is 7 firefighters on the fire ground. Nothing more nothing less.
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Sent from my iPad