



07/07/2017 04:06 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM)
BILL 2017.**

Disclaimer: *This submission is made by me as a concerned private citizen whose profession is fire-fighting. This submission has not been made in any capacity as a public official and any views expressed are personal and do not necessarily represent the views of my employer, being the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB).*

It is requested that my name stays STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

My name is [REDACTED] and I work as a Leading Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB). I work at the South Melbourne Fire Station and have been employed with the MFB since 2011.

I am in full support of the proposed fire service reforms.

At present, I live in Elwood and have the benefit of being serviced by the MFB which offers a guaranteed response to any emergency (including medical emergencies) at my home in under 8 minutes. Unfortunately, I cannot currently give this assurance to many of my relatives who live in the outer suburbs of Melbourne.

An example of this is the Emergency Medical Response program which has been running in the MFB since 2001. In my role as an MFB firefighter I have attended many cardiac arrests, drug overdoses and other medical emergencies which are time critical. If my relatives required this service I would want as many emergency responders there in a timely manner so that their chances of survival were greater, this is not currently the case with the current boundaries of the Metropolitan Fire District (MFD) which were established more than 60 years ago.

These boundaries have not been altered in that time despite the population of Melbourne, and Greater Melbourne, and the vast urban sprawl that our city has become. The result of this is that people who, despite living in highly urbanised areas, don't receive the same coverage that the inner city suburbs of Melbourne do. I have seen first-hand the enormous difference a couple of minutes can have in the progression of a structure fire or the progression of a cardiac arrest. I find it mind boggling that areas such as Dandenong, Hallam, and Caroline Springs are still considered "country" and feel this needs to be addressed. It is for these reasons that I ask you to support the proposed changes.

Finally, I want to convey to the Committee the enormous toll this ongoing dispute has had on me, my colleagues, and my family. We have all been subject to politically motivated attacks and denigration from the media when all we want to do is get on with providing the best fire service

we can. There is no doubt in my mind that these attacks have created deep wounds that need to be healed, I believe that these reforms are the way forward to doing that.

Regards,

[REDACTED]