

Prue Purdey

From: rodney egglesstone [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2017 3:03 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: FIR SERVICE REVIEW.

I
Dear Committee,

I would like to add to my previous submission. I am a Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with 29 years experience. My qualifications include obtaining the rank of Station Officer, some 15 years ago. In my time with the MFB I have participated and obtained many qualifications, including Cert 4 Workplace trainer and assessor, numerous Mental Health qualifications. The positions I have obtained with the MFB include Recruit Course instructor, Retention course instructor, Station Officer Course Instructor, (6 years), PEER SUUPPORT Co-ordinator(4 Years).

Over this time, not only have I seen fantastic work, done by a dedicated group of Instructors to ensure that the Recruits are the best prepared they can be. We prepare them for the immense dangers that they will face on a daily basis. The recruits are taught to be aware of their surroundings and to look after themselves and their shift mates until relief crews arrive to relieve them .

I also have instructed recruits that you may not have back up arriving if you are on the urban fringes. My personal experience of this is whilst stationed at Epping we attended a MVA which involved a complex extrication of an elderly patient, this was a call mid afternoon on a Wednesday, in CFA territory, The volunteers arrived approximately 20 minutes after the initial call came through for the job. Thankfully this call had a good outcome with the elderly passenger transported to hospital and the CFA captain explain there was trouble responding a crew due to employment circumstances.

I am also a member of the MFB Peer Support group, and held the position of Peer Support Coordinator for 4 years. This role is to look after the Mental health of all employees within the organisation.

I have helped many Firefighters over this time, with issues like PTSD and personal issues, which may involve families being worried about the safety of their spouse. Issues include sleep deprivation, intrusive dreams, which can be attributed to some of incidents that FFs see on a regular basis. This is particularly true of Rescue personnel.

If the new Fire Recue Victoria, is established, this could relieve some of these problems, because the workload would be shared, by more recue units being available, therefore minimising the exposure to potential traumatic incidents.

I thankyou for your time, **I would like this submission to remain anonymous.**

Sincerely,
Rodney Egglestone.