

Prue Purdey

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 10:57 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr Neil West
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a Station Officer with the MFB with 33 years service, I am a qualified Emergency Medical Responder, Road Rescue operator and a cat.II Urban Search & Rescue technician, I have spent the majority of my service in the Northern suburbs I am currently a Bushfire instructor with Operational Training.

I write in support of the proposed Fire Service reforms.

My family and I live in an urban growth area in metropolitan Melbourne which is covered by volunteer firefighters. Volunteer firefighters provide an outstanding service to the community. Unfortunately they are not always available due to work and family commitments. Not all Volunteer firefighters are trained in breathing apparatus or structural firefighting. I have personally experienced a number of calls where volunteer firefighters have responded to house fires and were not able to assist with internal attack, searches or firefighter rescue if needed.

The fire service boundaries have not changed in over 60 years, Melbourne has grown considerably in that time, what were once country areas are now heavily populated suburban suburbs. The proposed reforms will provide an opportunity for all metropolitan Melbourne and larger regional towns to receive the same guaranteed fire and medical response enjoyed by the majority of Melbourne. Interestingly all Victorians pay the fire service levy but receive different levels of service.

The proposed reform will not impact on the ability of CFA volunteer firefighters to continue to respond to calls and service their local communities and the State with surge capacity Strike Teams.

The ongoing industrial issues and constant negative press together with continued attacks by some politicians has had a detrimental impact on the morale of firefighters both volunteer and career. My health has been affected as a result of these attacks. The reform will enable improved service delivery and rebuild positive relationships with career and volunteer firefighters.

As a survivor of workplace cancer and the first Victorian firefighter to receive "Workcover" for my condition I ask that you support the presumptive legislation. It is my hope that no other firefighter has to jump through the numerous hoops required to receive Workcover for work related cancer whilst receiving treatment and fighting this disease.

Sincerely

Neil West.

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File1:

File2:

File3: