

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** O'BRIEN, Rodney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 July 2017 2:35 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Reform Submission

To The Select Committee for Fire Services Reform,

I support the government’s proposal for a major overhaul of the Fire Services in Victoria in order to bring the standard of protection provided to public up to the highest possible level.

I am a career Fire-fighter with the MFB who was also a volunteer at the local CFA brigade where I live in Doreen. I have lived in this area for over 10 years and have seen the population of this and the surrounding suburbs explode to a point that I do not believe a volunteer service can properly maintain.

In my role as a volunteer I regularly witnessed my own brigade or surrounding supporting brigades fail to turn out to calls in an acceptable time or even at all in many cases. Often if they were able to respond the crew would be lacking a sufficient number to safely respond to some emergency’s or were not all trained in BA or internal fire fighting techniques.

I responded as a volunteer during the Black Saturday fires and as such have absolute respect for the role that Volunteers play in the CFA. However it must be recognised that in the changing environment it has become much harder for volunteers to respond to the station reliably in the required time.

Response times are not the only issue that would be addressed if these reforms were to proceed, The public would benefit from a better trained and equipped fire service as well as the added benefits of the EMR first responder program.

I am willing to discuss any of the points raised in this submission.

Regards,

Leading Fire-fighter  
Rod O'Brien  
[REDACTED]

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