

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr Brendan Veal
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My name is Brendan Veal and I currently hold the rank of Senior Station Officer with MFB. I have been a career firefighter now for nearly 27 years. I am the officer-in-charge rotating between Brunswick and Thomastown fire stations. I have experience as a training officer for districts within MFB, have trained both recruit and promotional courses for the organisation. I have worked for 5 months recently in the Office of the Chief Officer and have experience in several other departments.

In my time in the fire service, there has been great change in what we offer the community as far as services provided such as EMR and in the regulatory requirements to hold certain specialist skills such as training, health and safety, working from heights and so on. This has caused MFB to specialise in certain areas such as marine firefighting, high angle rescue etc. There are a number of staff that have some of these qualifications but which would be very difficult for a volunteer organisation to sustain given the time commitment required.

Volunteers do a great job in CFA, but these restrictions hamper their ability to provide a quality service in all areas. Because they generally service their own local community, there is unlikely to be interest or funding to provide training in all areas the communities expect. If a certain risk is not in a town, it is unlikely there would be uptake in training in that risk. Eg Hazmat

Housing affordability is driving longer working hours and putting more pressure on volunteers. The younger generation are also less reluctant to give up their time to serve putting greater demands on governments to provide.
Now is the time to reform.

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File1:

File2:

File3: