

Kirra Vanzetti

From: KOTUZIAK, Nikolas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 8:27 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire svrice reform

Please accept this submission to the fire services reform.

I have been a professional firefighter for the past 27.5 years. I have attended a vast amount of fire calls both in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the outer fringe. I live in one of Melbournes urban growth areas in the south east corridor and have seen first hand the effects on our emergency services in these areas. When I first moved to Pakenham it was a quiet country town with a relatively small population. Over the years it has grown in to a vast suburban town with many different housing estates and shopping centres. The fire service used to be volunteer only but due to the number of people and the frequency of fire calls it became a full time station approximately 2.5 years ago. This full time service is still backed up by volunteers but does not solely rely on volunteers to respond to emergencies as is the case in other major areas of Melbourne and Victoria. Unfortunately in some of these areas response times are well outside the best practice on scene time for saving life and property. As the population grows in these areas so does the infrastructure like schools and hospitals which require immediate response in an emergency. One fire service for career staff across these areas would provide a more efficient service both in response time and financially more beneficial to the state. This would also provide safer outcomes for both firefighters and the public.

Nikolas Kotuziak
Leading Fire Fighter
MFESB
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