

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Tony Davis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 June 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Bill

Hello my name is Tony Davis

I live in Trentham approx. 95 KM's NW of Melbourne and I work in Craigieburn at VEMTC for the MFB, I am also a member of the UFU.

I have been employed by the MFB for over 31 years and have been stationed all across the Northern and Western suburbs, for the past 2 1/2 years I have worked at the training college at Craigieburn helping train CFA Recruit Firefighters.

I hold a certificate IV in Training & Assessment and I am a recipient of the National Emergency Medal received for fighting the Black Saturday Fires 7th Feb 2009.

I support the Fire services reform for the following reasons.

- Within the MFB we have had 7 firefighters on the fire ground for a number of years this is worlds best practice and should be afforded to my CFA career colleagues. They should not have their safety compromised when at this time they cannot be guaranteed a second responding truck within the 8 min time Frame ( which again is worlds best practice) from the volunteers. This in no way denigrates Volunteers but due to their own individual circumstances they cannot guarantee their response 100 per cent of the time whereas full time staff can.
- By merging the two Fire Services there should be little to no effect on Volunteers they will still be required to respond within their turnout areas and in times of state emergencies such as the Black Saturday and Ash Wednesday events. The merger will have no effect on Volunteer numbers unless they themselves choose to leave the service. As I have lived in a fully Volunteer environment for over 25 years I would not support any change if I thought it may effect numbers as my own property is protected by Volunteers only, with the nearest staff station over 45 min away.
- It is vital that response times are within the 8min window again ( worlds best practice ), this is when a structure fire will flash over and spread rapidly further endangering responding crews, as well as severely diminishing survivability to anybody trapped inside that structure. Having more career staff will guarantee these response times in the areas that they are needed such as outer Melbourne and all of the large country towns and cities such as Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Warnambool etc. As an area grows and emergency responses become too numerous for volunteers to respond then there is a need to make that area full time using Career staff to man these stations
- Heavily populated areas such as outer Melbourne which are currently serviced by a combination of Career staff and Volunteers from the CFA have grown far too big with far too many high risks within these areas such as Hospitals, nursing homes and Industrial areas for the volunteers alone to handle, these areas need full time career staff 2 truck response to afford these particular risks the protection that they need.
- Having worked directly with the CFA training their Recruits I have had many discussions with them about how difficult it has been when responding to a fire or other emergency incident where more than the 4 Firefighters on their truck have been urgently needed but for whatever reason the second truck has not been able to respond due to the unavailability of Volunteers. Often another Volunteer station much further away will be responded to but due to their distance from the incident their backup is far too slow to be of much help to the career staff who are already on scene. We in the MFB do not suffer with this problem knowing we will have a number of appliances on scene within a short period of time.

- The impact of this dispute over the last 3 years has had an extremely negative effect on both myself my family and work colleagues, it is the first time in my 31 year career that the public has not been on our side. This has been primarily due to the lies and misinformation and scare tactics given out to the media and pitting Volunteer against Career staff, it has been a very destructive tactic employed by people with hidden agendas and has not been in any way helpful to the Victorian public.
- As I have seen first hand the intensive training the CFA and MFB Recruits receive as well as the ongoing training that is required to progress from a Recruit to a fully Qualified Firefighter, this takes an enormous amount of time that can only be given if they are employed by either service.
- No one who is employed in an unrelated industry could not possibly give up this much time to achieve the same level of competency as a full time career firefighter, this statement is not about denigrating Volunteers but explains the difficulties volunteers face in respect of achieving the same level and amount of training that their full time colleagues receive.
- In finishing I have always believed there should be one fire service in Victoria manned by full time staff where needed and backed up by Volunteers in the quieter country areas similar to the systems in place in NSW & SA in the long term the Victorian public will be better served and especially with the future roll out of EMR (Emergency Medical Response) within the current CFA areas. Many lives have been saved by MFB Firefighters in our district and this response should be afforded to the rest of Victoria where CFA career staff currently and in future will respond to. Merging the two services will go a long way towards achieving this.

Regards

Tony davis

- Station Officer MFB