

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** brian.jessup [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** MFB Reforms Submission

We live in Eltham North and are therefore not within the designated MFB zone.

Our area is a high fire risk area due to its bushland setting. Our street is a no-through road, increasing our vulnerability in the event of a bush fire. If fire breaks out in our street we need a rapid response in order to minimize risk to people and property. Such a response is not guaranteed under the present fire service.

It is a known fact that the response time for the volunteer force is considerably longer than for the professional firefighters when they are called out to a fire. This is not the fault of the volunteers but due to the fact that when paged to attend a fire call, the volunteers are required to stop what they are doing, drive to the fire station, don their turnout gear and wait for any other volunteers to arrive all before responding to the fire call, in contrast to CFA and MFB professional firefighters who are required to be out of the station and responding to a fire call within 90 seconds of the initial call. This time delay before arriving on scene may be the difference between life or death for someone trapped in a burning building or simply the difference between the fire being limited to one room of the house or the entire house being lost.

Further to this and contrary to what has been reported in the media, volunteers do not receive the same training that professional firefighters receive. Professional firefighters receive 16 weeks of full time training before being deemed sufficiently trained to respond to a fire call. This is a bare minimum requirement that volunteer fire fighters do not receive and includes an Emergency Medical Response capability that the CFA volunteer organisation do not deliver.

It is our belief that the current model is antiquated and is in dire need of reform. For this reason, I support the fire services reform.

Pat and Brian Jessup  
[REDACTED]