

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2017 10:05 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

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 [REDACTED]  
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 [REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I have been a member of CFA since 1997, initially as a Volunteer member in the outer eastern suburb of Ferntree Gully. In 2001 joined the Operational ranks of the CFA as a career Firefighter. I have experienced over that time both the demographics of outer metro Melbourne and the operational demands on CFA change. The population growth and sprawl in Melbourne has contributed to an increase in the operational calls for CFA Brigades in those areas. The CFA have remedied the pressures in some areas by integrating career staff into Volunteer Brigades. It is important to note that introduction of career staff into a Brigade does not echo a Brigades' failure; it is a reflection of the increased workload. In my career to date the number of 'integrated' stations has more than doubled over the State of Victoria and CFA career staff numbers have trebled. So, does CFA continue to remedy by integrating more Brigades throughout Victoria and employ more staff or is it pertinent to 'reform the fire service' across the State?

Impact on fire Service delivery across Victoria:

- Reform will result in a assured response of two appliances with at least 7 firefighters dispatched to areas of high operational mandate
- Benefit to the Community of an expansion of the EMR program
- The reform will standardise career training across the state
- Specialist response and rescue equipment, training and expertise will more readily available
- Volunteers will continue to respond unimpeded throughout the State
- Reform will not have an adverse impact on 'surge capacity', to operational response requirements of a major incident

Effect on Volunteer engagement and participation in the Fire Service delivery:

- No impact to over 1100 Volunteer Brigades across the State of Victoria
- Effecting 35 integrated Brigades only, in areas that are now highly urbanised with diverse demographics that may have already seen change in the Volunteer culture in those Brigades

- No effect on 'bushfire' response across Victoria, serviced predominantly by the 1100 Brigades that will not be impacted by reform
- Volunteer members at the 35 integrated Brigades will continue to be members of those Brigades
- Volunteer members across the State of Victoria will continue to be able to access training and support from career staff
- The current climate has created a division and adverse working relationship that has effected current relations in response, training and beyond that I have not seen in my 20 years of CFA that reform will address

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File1:

File2:

File3: