

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Paula Sutto [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 10:45 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Re: Fire service reform submission

From: Paula Sutto [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 10:38 PM
To: LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: Fire service reform submission

It is time for a modern fire service.

I have been a CFA brigade member for 22 years for the Mansfield community.

The need for change was a long time ago. These reforms will not impact on Mansfield or the surrounding areas. I've read the facts of the Governments proposed reforms. Everyone wins! No volunteers displaced. Surge Capacity stays as it is. There is a clear process for new permanent stations to be assigned. Presumptive Cancer Legislation for all firefighters.

I read in the media that the cancer coverage for volunteers was deficient. Well I went to the effort of using Google and found the Australian Firefighters Health Study. It opened my eyes. The statistical evidence isn't there to prove that volunteers get cancer at increased rates compared to the community average. Interesting. Did some more research using Google to find the proposed legislation; Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017. I hadn't even finished reading the Introduction Print (the first page) to see this;
The purpose of the Bill is to—

- provide compensation under the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 for career firefighters and volunteer firefighters who are suffering, or will suffer, from specified forms of cancer; and

The intent of the legislation is to provide coverage to both volunteer and career firefighters. I threw my hands in the air! What is all the fuss about? Egos? Us vs Them?

What actually matters is when a member of the public ring '000' they get the best possible response. For me in Mansfield that will continue to be a volunteer fire truck. For my family members in the outer suburbs (areas that are a continuous extension of the city); there should be a paid firefighter response. A line on a map should not matter. It should never have mattered.

I could continue to easily blow holes through the fears that I see in the local paper and the Herald Sun. If I can easily find the facts one must ask who are the people that are against the reforms? I'll set them straight.

As a committee get on with endorsing the legislation for the good of all Victorians.

Regards,
Paula Sutton

