

**From:** Sergio Agricola [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 June 2017 12:28 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Cc:** ufuvic@ufuvic.asn.au  
**Subject:** Fwd: RE: Fire Service Reform

Hi All,

my name is Sergio Agricola, a 27 year career Leading Firefighter with the MFB. I have acquired a list of vast /varied qualifications obtained following much training/assessments (by standards set by consultation between the MFB/UFU). The benchmark of these standards were achieved with robust discussions/consultation/agreement ,always keeping in mind the best interests/ safety of their members at heart. In the past there were constant "Battles", yet nothing like the current environment. It saddens me that unfortunately it has come to this. Propaganda for political votes, hurtful mistruths/misinformation, creating divisions amongst "Brothers & "Sisters", exposure to public criticism and verbal attacks, all causing low morale and loss of trust / faith in your Employer/Government.

Personally I'm am proud to wear my uniform, serving and protecting the public and their property etc. I feel fortunate working in my chosen career and am now coming towards the end .I am currently transitioning to retire....I'm tired! Not tired because on the shift-work, not tired because of constant exposure to trauma, not tired because of exposure to chemicals, not tired because of the long night-shifts, not tired because of working weekends and being away from my family/friends etc...

I'm tired because of constant news that a "Brother or Sister has yet again become very unwell due to Cancer/PSD , some terminal, some even taking their lives(hence the need for Presumptive Legislation). I'm tired of the last five and a half years of fighting, not only for a pay rise/better conditions, but mostly for what's in the best interests of "all"(Firefighters, Public safety and yes, even Politicians!).Please, let's end this madness, it's been going on for far too long. Let's all for once put the interest of public safety and common sense first.

I believe in Fire Service Reform. Not for personal gain, not to create divisions between paid Firefighters ,against Volunteers etc. Reform is urgently needed to support all Firefighters , dealing with health issues , directly caused and attributed to their jobs. The evidence is now conclusive, that we are directly exposed to trauma, chemicals etc...making us very sick, even killing some of us. During these trying times, we/our families need help, support and less red-tape to contend with. Airport Firefighters have been covered by Presumptive Legislation for many years now. It only makes sense that the rest of Firefighters are too.

Also Reform is vital due to Urban sprawl and the shifting of boundaries. We currently now have Suburbs protected by integrated stations, as are Satellite Cities(Geelong/Bendigo/Ballarat etc). Any changes to reform will not change the integration between the two services. It will be business as usual. The reforms will pave the way for more Firefighters to be trained and increase numbers to cope with the demand of Calls . This is important to provide and maintain a standard of protection .Also expanding of boundaries will increase Emergency Response Coverage , currently only available in the Metro area. We have been trained and turning out to EMR responses (initially under a trial, now permanent), for over Twenty years. It contributes to a large portion of our Calls. It has been extremely successful, with many positive outcomes .Expanding this role into shifting boundaries with reform , will offer more public protection and coverage. Red tape and current criteria won't allow MFB Firefighters the ability to turn-out into CFA areas in the event of an EMR incident. Example,I was stationed at Somerton Fire-Station(9stn) for over 19 years. Our boundary was the South side of Somerton Road, Somerton. We were unable to respond to a medical Emergency(EMR) response( across the North side of the road) and still can't, under our current criteria. This is frustrating and doesn't make sense. This situation would change with Fire Service Reform. More lives could possibly be saved with expanding coverage.

Fire Service reform is also necessary for many other reasons. Areas have become more densely populated with more infrastructure, hospitals, schools nursing homes, industrial sites etc. The need for quick response is vital. Volunteers do a great job, but unfortunately for many reasons , can't always provide an immediate and fast response. In the interest of maintaining immediate, prompt coverage and public safety first. This response can be provided by reforms into the areas ,now covered by integrated stationed etc.... It makes sense and will save more lives.

I implore you consider the reforms, put public safety first, forget the politics. Consider that with change in expanding areas, as Fire Service Reform [change is](#) a necessity

Kind Regards,

(in confidence)

MFB LFF Sergio Agricola.(reg no.4601)