

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 July 2017 10:56 AM  
**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

Mr Ian Ireland  
[REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I have been a volunteer for 29 years at Ballan Fire Brigade and have never been so disappointed at the way the changes to the Legislation has been delivered and combining it with the Presumptive Legislation shows no respect for those who suffer with Fire related illness . Very little information has been made available other than the Governments spin on why we should accept it, similiar to that when Fiskville was closed on 26th March, 2015. Both the closure and the formation of the FRV has been driven by the Andrews Government to satisfy the needs of the UFU.

If we are to remove the Career Staff from the CFA then we need to ensure that the operational staff that is used by the CFA is employed by the CFA and not seconded as the legislation now indicates. The formation of FRV as a Fire Service and the CFA as a Volunteer Fire Service should be independant of each other and able to employ there own staff from what ever source can provide the best applicant not be told that only FRV employees can be seconded. On that basis they are not employees of the CFA and therefore are operating under their EBA with FRV, where does this place the volunteers, still being controlled by a union organisation.

There is no allowance in the proposed legislation to cover lateral entry, all those above the rank of Operations Manager are employed by the CFA on a contract basis and are unaffected by the change. Should operational staff from the DEWLP Fire Service or any other Fire Service within Australia wish to apply for operational positions at Operations Mangager or below in the CFA this cannot occur as they are not employees of FRV. This is unfair and we as volunteers will never be free of indirect union control. Over the past eighth years our myself and our brigade members have not been provided with Urban Fire Training, this is because the instructors must be operational staff and they do not want to take up training positions as they hold no career pathways. How will this change when we have to rely on seconded staff from FRV to provide our training, it won't, therefore how will be be able to maintain our Safety as Volunteers on the fire ground.

The CEO of the CFA made it quite clear at a meeting in Ballarat that she was only in the position until the change takes place. Again a show of no passion for a once proud ogranisation which had the heart and soul

ripped from it with the Fiskville closure, the home of volunteers, somewhere where we could meet and chat with the changes now and pending there is no where this will occur.

If you do agree with the formation of the new service, please consider the employment issue as to who will control the Fire Service, the CFA or the FRV.

On the Presumptive Legislation why should Volunteers have different access criteria. We fight the same fires with less equipment and protection.

I would be only to pleased to address the committee to expand on my experience.

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File1:

File2:

File3: