

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Grant Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 9:56 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fwd: Submission

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From: Grant Adams [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Jul 2, 2017 at 9:54 PM
Subject: Submission
To: LCSC@parliment.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this submission in support of fire services reform for the Fire Services Bill Select Committee 2017.

My name is Grant Adams, I am a Station Officer at Tullamarine Fire Station with the MFESB.

I have been a firefighter for 33 years, 27 years as a Station Officer, I am responsible for the daily operations on D shift at Tullamarine Fire Station.

My specialist qualifications include Rescue Unit and Elevated Work Platform, I also work as a Peer with our Peer Support program.

I have witnessed over the past 30 years the urbanisation of the North West area and population growth, we originally attended many fires in the Westmeadows/Greenvale areas with volunteers from the CFA, we were often treated with suspicion that we were trying to take over CFA areas.

After a lot of assurance and effort we gained some trust but always felt we were just being tolerated, from our point of view we didn't care who put the fire out as long as life and property was preserved.

With the installation of professional CFA firefighters at CFA stations, the trust that is so critical to our profession was almost immediate, due to us having the same goals of preserving life and property above all. The professional CFA firefighters also had a healthy trust with the CFA volunteers and so the system improved greatly.

We also have very healthy and trusting relationships the Aviation Rescue and Firefighting Service at Melbourne Airport, where we are the supporting authority, we also are the combating authority at Essendon Airport.

Having MFB and CFA still has many operational issues such as different radios for communication, different hose couplings and pumpers, not to mention different procedures, that all make interoperability more difficult.

Fire services reform will alleviate all of these issues and allow for MFB professional firefighters to work with CFA professional firefighters under one banner and with CFA volunteers to create healthy and trusting relationships, that will have preservation of life and property as its unified goal.

It can only enhance our EMR role in the growth areas of the North West of Melbourne, which has been so successful thus far.

Combination of professional firefighting will also only enhance the use of firefighters in task forces, working under one command structure.

Working in peer support, I see first hand the impact on our staff of the constant media negativity towards a profession that is held in high esteem within our communities that we serve.

It would be highly desirable to bring this dispute to an end and get on with the job of real cohesion within our fire services.

Kind Regards

Station Officer Grant Adams

Ph [REDACTED]