

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Garry T Cronin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 1:02 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform.

Dear Assistant Clerk committee

I would like to submit this report.

Senior Station Officer
 Garry Thomas Cronin
 OIC of C platoon
 FS07 Thomaston District Station for Northern District
 Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade

I have been employed by the MFB from August 1964 to present I have 53 years service.

I am a driver operator of MK4 pumper and MK4 pumper tanker MK5 pumper and MK pumper tanker
 Tele boom Rescue and EMR trained

I was promoted to Station Officer in 1975 and Senior Station Officer in 1981 and have held that position from then to present.

I was a volunteer Firefighter with the CFA for 12 years and have several qualifications from my CFA service.

I have a Queen's commendation for bravery. Royal Human Society award for bravery. Three MFB Awards for Fire calls and two MFB EMR awards for persons lives saved

My home address is

[REDACTED]

I am putting this submission for the following reasons.

The present system of responding with the CFA has not changed very much in my time with the MFB and not keep up with the times.

We are all aware of the substantial growth of Melbourne suburbs and as such response has not keep pace with the growth.

Volunteers are not available in the outer Metropolitan areas like there once where. While statements are made by individual persons and groups that they are this is not the case. I have been left short on the fire ground because of failure to respond on many fire calls. The time allowed for volunteers to respond 10 minutes to attend at there Station and then turn out does not meet today's standards.

No one would say that the Volunteers are not required and do not perform a role that is required.

World best standards state that if 7 Firefighters arrive on scene within 7.7 minutes the Fire should be contained to the room or object of origin. My experience on the fire ground has show that this is correct. CFA staff and MFB members meet that standard.

My experience as a volunteer with the CFA has shown up the weakness that a volunteer system in a urban areas that have become suburbanization.

I have seen some changes to the Fire Service but I believe that this change with the the Reform will take the two brigades one giant step forward and will benefit all of Victoria.

This change will bring a standard Fire Service to Victoria and benefit all firefighters and the public

In the course my Fire brigade service I have been exposed to danger because of the lack of cordnation between the two Brigades lack of understanding and lack of cooperation at times especialty with volunteer officers.

In December 2015 I attended a large grass fire in Epping because of reasons mentioned above myself and the crews I was responsible for where placed in grave danger because lack of cooperation. A MFB investigation classified the fire as a near miss for the crews present. One members was injured and off duty for 6 months.

I personally feel reponsnslbility for what happened as I placed the crews in the position on the fire front where I exected to receive assistance from the CFA and this did not happen I at one stage for the first time in my career I feared for the life of the crews and myself and ordered a withdrawal.

I am prepared to meet the Fire Service Reform Committee to have a discussion about any point raised.

Regards
SSO Garry T Cronin

Sent from Samsung tablet
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