

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Parliament House Ph: 61 7 3553 6637 George Street Fax: 61 7 3553 6699

Brisbane Qld 4000 email: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission By: Kim Crow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission Re: The Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters)

As a Volunteer Rural Fire Fighter along with my Husband and Daughter, I feel very disappointed in the Government that under value our service and our Lives. It appears that the government is happy to have Volunteer give up their time and risk their lives to protect the wider community from Fires, but unwilling to give them the same protection that their paid counter parts receive. In recent years Emergency services has pushed the point one service working together, dispelling past rivalry between Urbans and Rurals. Now the Government is once again increasing the void between the Urban and Rural Fire fighters, by under valuing the lives of the Rural Fire Fire Fighter.

Protective equipment supplied to Urban Fire Fighter afforded them better protection than that of rural fire fighters especially with the type of respirator supplied. This alone put Rural Fire Fighters at greater risk than their Urban counter parts. But volunteers are only covered for smoke related illness after attended 150 fire against Urban only having to attend 1. This seem very unfair. The Volunteer Rural Brigade provide the Government with a wage free service that protects a huge percentage of the Community. Volunteer don't expect to be paid or their community service they willing give up their time but they should be given the same protection under Worker compensation as their paid counter parts.

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS ARE A GREAT ASSETT TO THIS COUNTRY.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO VALUE AND PROTECT THIS VALUABLE ASSET.