

## INQUIRY INTO EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCIES

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date received:** 21 July 2017

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Partially  
Confidential

## Cover Letter

The Hon Robert Borsak, MLC  
Chairman  
Portfolio Committee No. 4  
Enquiry into Emergency Services Agencies.

My letter has been submitted with full details and names provided as my experience with bullying and harassment was not a general one throughout my 10+ years in the RFS. It was a localized incident and chain of problems all stemming from one superintendent and his complete disregard for protocol, respect and the safety of volunteers. I understand you do not wish to publish names, so I give permission for my letter to be edited and names removed, however I would like to draw attention to the fact that in all my years

I have never once encountered any harassment, discrimination, belittlement or disrespect within any ranks of the RFS. I have never before this incident witnessed protocols being so blatantly ignored, an entire majority having to question their safety, and being met with such aggressive disrespect when doing so.

Sincerely

8<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

The Hon Robert Borsak, MLC  
Chairman  
Portfolio Committee No. 4  
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On the evening of /16 I attended a special meeting at RFS station to discuss some recent confusion over a directive given in relation to . Super Intendant was invited to this meeting and was asked to explain this directive as the entirety of the brigade were asking for more information on the issue which they felt put their safety at risk.

I am writing to convey my shock and disgust at the way that the superintendent spoke to our volunteer members.

I personally asked a few questions in relation to this issue and was met with rudeness and a condescending tone. Not only myself but almost every member that queried about this sudden change (which was the purpose of the meeting) was met with the same disrespect. He spoke to these volunteers as if we were wasting his time and we were out of line for voicing our concerns. During the meeting he said things such as "This is my directive. You have to follow my chain of command. If you don't like it leave the RFS." He was also rude and belittling in his actions towards our members, and in a few instances held his hand up to silence an officer of our brigade, who was politely asking a question, he then told him to stop talking and spoke over the top of him in a rude and dictating manner. Superintendent was completely disrespectful to our volunteers and had absolutely no regard for anyone's concerns, nor did he wish to bother acting appropriately for a man in his position.

As he is a paid representative of our RFS, I was appalled and taken aback by the complete lack of respect and politeness that displayed towards our members who volunteer their time. At one point during the meeting I had to ask if the code of conduct actually applied to himself as well as the volunteer members, as when he handed it out to everyone he implied that we had not followed the rules regarding respect for simply querying something that made the entire brigade question their safety.

Having been a member of RFS for over 10 years, I have met a lot of RFS senior staff members and personnel, but never have I been spoken to or regarded in such an antagonising and rude manner.

Sincerely