

Submission
No 170

INQUIRY INTO EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCIES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Hello Robert and David

Robert believe you are the chair of a Parliamentary Inquiry into emergency services and David you have made submissions to this Inquiry. In the past I have written to my local member John Barilaro who has tried to be most helpful. I wrote to John on seperate occasions about our poor quality issue bush fire helmets and the lack of fire safety curtains in tankers outside the Sydney Region. John has in turn written to the RFS and the responses we received were vague and condescending responses to my serious concerns. I hope your Inquiry will be able to get real reform in the RFS, especially with its poor culture of worker safety and unusual equipment purchase processes.

I have been a member of the RFS for 18 years and have been subjected to several episodes of bullying. On one occasion I lodged an offical grievance about a now retired RFS staff member. My grievance was handled locally and by a grievance committee that was stacked with friends of the staff officer. I was then subject to further episodes of bullying from some of the committee members.

On another occasion I was asked to Sydney HQ to make a presentation of why the RFS should replace their low quality and unsafe issue fires helmets with safer Kevlar helmets. I was bullied by an Assistant Commissioner and treated with contempt during my presentation. The panel I presented to included some staff and some RFSA members. I am of the strong belief that some staff members of the RFS have some corrupt links with Protector Safety Helmets. This relationship prevents RFS members from getting safe bush fire fighting helmets.

I also have concerns with the relationships that the RFS technical services have with some fire truck manufacturers, there are many poor design features of RFS trucks which put members lives at risk and will not be addressed despite some serious workplace safety issues.

I am happy to talk to either of you about these matters. I am still an active member of the NSW RFS and have almost given up any hope of reform.

Regards