



MEDIA RELEASE – 20 September 2016

DIVISIVE FLYER CONDEMNED BY VFBV – ALL IN CFA HAVE A RIGHT TO RESPECT AND EQUAL TREATMENT

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV), representing CFA Volunteers in Victoria, together with the CFA Board, has condemned in the strongest possible terms a recent anonymous flyer which insults and denigrates volunteer's paid colleagues.

CFA volunteers (97% of the CFA workforce) and paid firefighters and support staff make up the CFA's fully integrated, dedicated and highly skilled workforce.

"We reject the attack on our paid firefighter colleagues and their union made in this flyer," said Andrew Ford, CEO of VFBV.

The offensive flyer, distributed by unknown sources and appearing on some social media sites over the weekend misuses the style, layout and words of a legitimate VFBV fundraising leaflet and doctors it with offensive and divisive language. *(Copy of Offensive flyer and VFBV flyer attached)*

"The unknown perpetrators have made the offensive flyer look like it's from VFBV when it is not," Mr Ford said.

"Our policy and creed is that every member of CFA must be treated as equals and with respect," He said.

"That's what we are fighting for.

"Apart from the insult to paid firefighters and their union, this flyer also works against VFBV's fundraising to support our Supreme Court action to protect CFA as a volunteer based integrated organisation.

"The money we are raising is for our campaign to maintain and strengthen CFA's fully integrated community based volunteer and paid employee operating model to deliver first class public safety services to communities across Victoria.

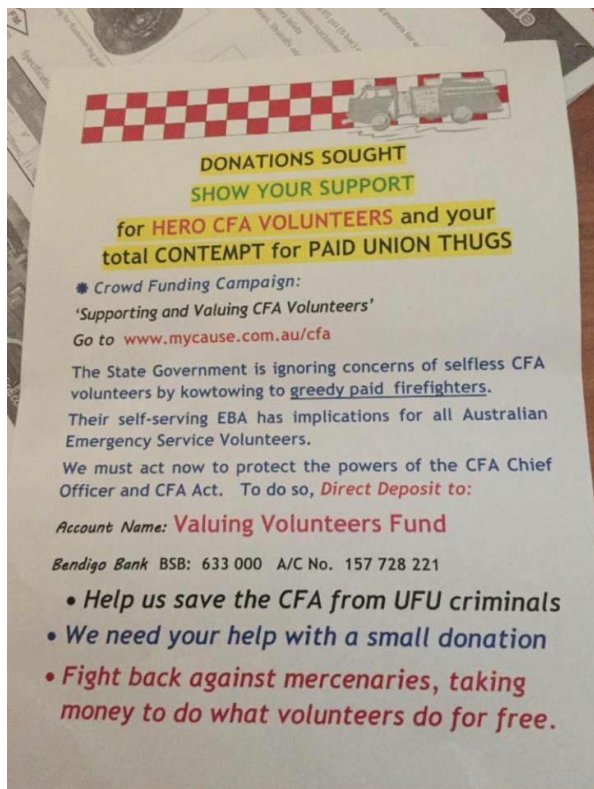
"The offensive flyer is against our commitment to the 'One CFA' model of organisation and operation based on respect, equal rights to consultation and professional co-operation. In short, it undermines core principles of our campaign and diverts attention from it.

"We are proud of the CFA volunteer based model of operation and its wide reputation, and we will defend it.

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Media Inquiries to Garth Head 0408 553 306

Divisive anonymous flyer setting up VFBV, distributed on social media just prior to Senate hearing on protecting volunteer legislation:-



VFBV fundraising flyer:-



DONATIONS WELCOMED TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF CFA VOLUNTEERS

*** Crowd Funding Campaign:**
'Supporting and Valuing CFA Volunteers'
Go to www.mycause.com.au/cfa

Our State Government is ignoring the concerns of CFA volunteers.
The current deal has implications across all Emergency Service Volunteers Australia Wide.
We need to act now to preserve and protect the powers of the CFA Chief Officer and the CFA Act.

*** Direct Deposit details:**
Account Name: Valuing Volunteers Fund
Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000
A/C No. 157 728 221

- **Help CFA volunteers save CFA**
- **We need your help with a small donation**