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## Your details

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

Emergency services personnel

**Submission type**

I am making a personal submission

**Consent to make submission public**

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

As a firefighter of 35 years and fire investigator, I was only asked to complete fire duties on one occasion.

The RFS used inexperienced staff on Incident Management Teams with more experienced staff not utilised. Myself qualified in logistics and planning was never asked to fulfil these roles as staff want the overtime from the service.

Anyone that speaks out about the shortfalls of the service is bullied. Myself due to my requirement to have health and safety representatives in the service have been bullied and isolated from these duties. So when I offered my services I was not used. I did attend on two occasions once at the sir ivan fire where we sat on a hill for 12 hours watching aircraft water bomb a distant fire.

These fires were not unique but different strategies were required due to the bush and drought. The majority of the fire fighting was using standard techniques which was not appropriate for the conditions.

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## Terms of Reference (optional)

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The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

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### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Inexperience at Incident Management Teams. Many of those may have long RFS, National parks and other agency service but have little managing fire experience.  
Qualified in Theory but no practical experience in field operations.  
Experienced staff made redundant to reduce pay rates of positions

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### 1.2 Preparation and planning

Theory qualifications that many have does not equate to skills set for managing fire activity. Training of most of today's crew leaders can see three levels of qualifications gained in three years without practical fire fighting.  
FRNSW fire units not set up for protection of crews or vehicle. No protective spray systems or fire coating of essential fuel and braking systems. These units should not be in bush fire areas.  
Communication huts not fire proof and therefore burnt and no communication was available.  
Phone huts also not fire proof so no phone coverage when they burnt.

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### 1.3 Response to bushfires

Only 17500 volunteers were available to attend fires. RFSW reports to have 73000 but volunteers believe that only 20-30000 members exist as the RFS data base does not allow members to be taken out with many on books dead.

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### 1.4 Any other matters

Members not supported and bullied. As mentioned above, every time an issue arises staff will not address and then if referred higher there is always consequences. Investigations are always desired outcomes. investigated friends of management, wasted funds, no privacy, and even staff with bikie links sending aggressive actions to other staff homes.  
<https://emergencylaw.wordpress.com/2016/08/27/rfs-volunteer-exercising-rights-as-a-worker/>

## Supporting documents or images

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