**MFB an 'intractably sick' organisation**

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The former long-serving chairman of Melbourne's Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) says he quit the board in disgust over the entrenched culture of bullying and unionism.

Adrian Nye says the MFB board is unable to govern because of what he calls "black letter" industrial agreements and a lack of support from the State Government.

"We're talking about a history of neglect that goes back over a decade," he said.

He said he resigned because he believes if you cannot govern, then you should not be there.

"It's intractable, significantly sick. The core struggle is about control of the organisation, right down to things like whether a training tower can be opened or whether new security key lockers can be issued to stations," he said.

"It's not a place where you can actually make a decision at the board table and assume that it will actually go anywhere."

He said he has never known such a bullying culture as the one within the MFB.

"It's the only place I've ever worked in where on station visits, people will actually take you away from the crowd and go behind a pillar to tell you what they really think about their inability to manage their station or the bullying they've received because they don't accept a particular union position," he told ABC Radio's Jon Faine.

Mr Nye said if you rolled out all the instances of delays over the years on simple things, it would be laughable.

And he says they have a "keep-it-all-in-the-family" mentality so the world does not know what is going on.

He says the dominant culture in the organisation is a particular group associated with the United Firefighters Union (UFU).

"I find it extraordinary that people in government with the power to assist us to change the world are also afeared. I don't understand that," he said.

The UFU is assessing Mr Nye's allegations.

Ian Spicer, the acting president of the MFB says Mr Nye does not speak for the board and that the board has the 'highest confidence' in the organisation and all its staff.

He said firefighters will again demonstrate their dedication by being on duty over the Easter break, providign the emergency service Melbournians deserve.

Mr Nye said he supports the idea of an independent corruption body that could deal with allegations of corruption in the fire brigade.

He is also critical of the Bushfires Royal Commission, saying it is too difficult to get the big issues affecting the MFB heard by the commission.

He says the commission should be examining issues such as why the MFB cannot drug or alcohol test its members.

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