

Mrs Daisy Buckley

The Director General Purpose Standing Committee

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to take some of your time just to remind you of the personal loss that my family and I have endure with the suicide of my sister Christine Hodder. I feel that you need to understand the gapping hole her loss has created, and how it has been for my family, that such a senseless tragedy could have been avoided if managed properly. To do this I feel it is important that I tell you a little bit about Christine as a daughter, sister, wife and mother.

Christine was the kind of person who always tried her hardest at everything she did. She took great pride in her achievements as well as the achievements of all her loved ones. Christine is the second child of Jean-Claude and Maryse Leon and she has two brothers and myself her sister. Christine is the Aunty of nine nieces and nephews and was a great influence in all their lives. Nothing ever came easily to Christine she always had to work hard, but that is what my sister did best. Her work ethic was unbelievably strong and she always strived to achieve her best.

Christine was a loving and loyal wife to Jason Hodder and after years of trying and hoping she finally fulfilled her dream of starting a family of her own with the birth of her beautiful daughter. The thought of loss is unsurpassed as there will never be the right words to say to her as she has lost the most important person in her life and nothing will ever make it better for her.

Over the years I have watched my determined capable sister loose herself as she worked along side the people of Cowra Ambulance Station. Her faith in people was sadly diminished as well as her self worth and self esteem. She tried in vain to believe it would all work out in the end and that management knew what they were doing and would fix the problems at Cowra Station.

You may ask how after seven years why she just did not leave, believe me all her family did ask that very same question of her as well, I know I did. But that is not my sister Christine, she told me once, she has never done anything wrong and she believed that if she stood her ground and did her work to the best of her ability and followed the procedures in place, then eventually people would see the misconduct and rectify the problems at Cowra Ambulance Station. Christine would say I have invested my time and future in Cowra it's the home town of my husband. It's my home. They can't get rid of me.

My sister called me just before she died and she spoke to me about a lot of things that were happening at her work, however to this day no one has ever asked me about this conversation even though I have spoken to the investigating officer at the time and told him that I had spoken to Christine close to her death, but the extraordinary thing is I have never been given the opportunity to put forward Christine's thoughts. Some of the things Christine told me were horrendous, not what I would expect from medical professionals with the responsibilities of life and death situations. What I find more amazing is how long this behaviour continued and how it has never been stopped and that the people responsible for the torment of my sister are still being protected and are able to continue this torturous behaviour even today.

We have seen over and over again the terrible impact that long term harassment and bullying in schools and in the work place can produce, yet it would seem that the NSW Ambulance Service would rather protect themselves than deal with the unjust treatment of Christine and other officers at Cowra Station. It frightens me that in this day and age and in what the public would think would be a professional service like the Ambulance Service, such things are still going on, worse still, are being swept under the carpet and wished away. I can tell you now, this will never go away, all Christine's family has ever asked for is proper justice for Christine and that other Ambulance officers would be protected and treated fairly with respect and consideration while carrying out their profession which is already a highly demanding.

I ask you to have this properly investigated and to be fair to Christine and her family. Put your self in our shoes, try to see our loss and how senseless and easily avoidable this situation could have been, just by being acknowledged and dealt with correctly.

We will never have peace until the people responsible for the harassment and bullying of my sister are held accountable and The Ambulance Service acknowledge their accountability in the Death of Christine.

I thank you for your time and hope you will give my family some peace of mind and address our issue and concerns with the Ambulance Service

Daisy Buckley

Christine's little sister