

Submission  
No 229

## INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date received:** 11/05/2012

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Partially Confidential

## Submission to Inquiry: NSW Workers Compensation Scheme

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Confidentiality

As someone who has suffered a significant injury whilst on duty as a nurse, I find it unacceptable to be reducing the workers compensation entitlements. In my own experience from March 2005 I have suffered ongoing pain and suffering which I never claimed any more then my medical expenses for. I was able to retrain myself (self funded) into an area of nursing which on most occasions can accomodate my pain issues. Unfortunately as soon as I had a child, the insurance company thought they could oust my claim, and therefore I had no choice but to seek legal action for my medical bills. I feel that as a an injured employer I attended all the appointments and went thru the process that was requested of me even though insurance companies expected me to travel to Sydney (which exacerbated pain) and some of the doctors I saw were less then professional and didnt complete full assessments or document everything that I told them. I dont feel that putting employees through more apts is going to be of benefit to the injured person or the employer, Obviously if the injury is suspect then that is reasonable to have extra tests and or apts. Unfortunately I am aware that there are some people out there rorting the system, but for the workers who do their best to improve pain, retrain themselves and try to get on with life, It is extremely depressing and a very anxious time. The mental distress living with long term, chronic pain is enough without having to go through the turmoil of extra appointments/tests etc. It is a really difficult time and I dont think anyone understands until they have been through it. It comes down to the help and support your employer and insurance company give you as to wether or not you make it through. I wouldnt be here now if I didnt have my family and support from my employer, I think that suicide is unfortunately a better option for alot of people when the workers compensation all gets too hard. This affects peoples lives and their families lives. Things need to change, but the money people require for treatment must not be reduced. 13 weeks is not a long period of time to recover from an injury. My injury is 7 years old now and I still have pain and days that I cant go to work.