

REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE WORKCOVER AUTHORITY

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 25/02/2014

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/ Madam

Regarding Unions are making submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the functions of WorkCover.

I work in a busy Recovery Room at a Private Hospital

In late November 2012, I trod on an extension cord plug at work. The nasty fall resulted in haemorrhage into the joint and two ruptured tendons, on my right ankle.

My experience from then onwards was nothing short of horrendous.

The hospital RTW coordinator insisted on accompanying me into the drs office and pressured me into seeing the "hospital appointed dr for workers comp injuries".

Before my MRI scan was reported, the hospital sent a car to pick me up and take me to work, crying and in an ortho boot, in pain and unable to walk properly.

It was expected I could sit at a desk with my leg up and type in the Recovery/Operating Unit. All part of the new how to treat injured workers plan.

My next experience, I had surgery and my foot was in a downwards pointing plaster so I could not weight bare at all for a number of weeks. A few days out of hospital I had to go see the GP for my monthly workers comp check. The physical stress of moving out of the house into the car into a surgery was horrendous. All because the new workers comp and workplace says if you don't get your medical certificate reviewed every 4 weeks you won't get paid and you will be not of adhered to the new workers comp rules.

At this time a Worker Cover - Return to Work Assessor – told me I was being difficult because I refused to return to work in a wheelchair and do desk duty (In recovery /operating theatres !) By this time I was having to use a bedside commode night & day because my ability to move was reducing daily. My time in the downwards plaster the stress of moving started to show on my left knee. The continued pivoting resulted in severely injuring my left knee, In March 2013 now almost unable to walk, I had to have a Total Knee Replacement .

Two days after leaving hospital I had to again in extreme pain get myself to the Doctors for my Workers Compensation Certificate ! From 3 weeks after my TKR. I was again pressure to return to work.

I returned to work under duress 12 weeks post my knee replacement.

I have neuropathic pain in my right foot and leg and struggle with the everyday sensations in my foot, I can no longer drive with my foot on the pedal for longer than 1 hour.

My worker Cover Insurance managers delays approval for rehab treatment on my foot and I end up paying for it myself.

I am 9 months short of two years working currently 6 hours nursing care 2 hours desk work. The hospital sacked another nurse who was injured but had returned to work at the 2 years post injury date. I am stressed and pressured by the knowledge I still have not returned to my pre injury status and at 2 years the hospital can sack me even if I am working.

I think the new Workers Compensation Injury Laws – WorkCover – do not protect injured workers at all they leave us exposed, pressured and manipulated. My physical and mental health has deteriorated due to my injury and workers compensation rules exposure.

God help good hard working people who have significant long term injuries who do return to work but still need treatment to maintain it. I think it is a poor reflection on our government that they continue to offer handouts to people who do not work or who have never worked, yet workers who are injured are denied ongoing assistance and are basically persecuted. I fear for my future.

We never return to our pre injury state, we are left with the consequences of that injury.

Regards