Supplementary Submission No 20a

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Name: Mr John McPhilbin

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In 2003, I was forced onto workers compensation as a result of a workplace injury. My claim was initially declined and I was forced to fight for basic entitlements through the Workers Compensation Commission. I was successful in winning my case, however, that was only the beginning of his nightmare. Despite suffering from major depression as a result of my ordeal, I received little help from the insurance company. It took the insurance company, even after years of lobbying NSW politicians for help, 6 years to provide me with the support I desperately needed. I was left with very little support from the system for 6 years. This meant I was left to languish for far too long and I almost lost everything as a result, I even contemplated suicide on my darkest days. The system, in my opinion, is not designed to meet the real needs of injured workers and their families, in fact it only adds insult to injury. I am currently completing a degree in applied social science, majoring in management, and intend to pursue a career in helping to change the current system to better aid injured workers and their families get the care and justice they need and deserve.