

Submission  
No 83

**INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF BULLYING IN  
WORKCOVER NSW**

**Name:** Mrs Deborah Martens  
**Date received:** 23/08/2013

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Partially Confidential

Deborah Martens

#### SUBMISSION

Allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW (Inquiry)

Legislative Council referred this inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW on 27 June 2013

[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees)

23 August 213

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1.  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

#### BACKGROUND:

I, Deborah Martens, a former WorkCover Gosford employee, since taking a “voluntary” redundancy on 10 May 2013. My final role was a Grade 5/6 Compliance Officer in Compliance Improvement Branch, Premiums Branch, in the Workers Compensation Division. I had been employed by WorkCover since October 2002 as a temp administration assistant, before securing a permanent role as Grade 3/4 Compliance Administration Assistant in June 2003. I was also successful in being offered a “Springboard Opportunity” with the Fraud Branch for a period of 3 months, as a Grade 7/8 Fraud Investigator from January to April 2007.

As I have only learnt tonight, 22/8/13, about this inquiry, I don't read newspapers and gave up on reading union notifications, and only heard by word of mouth yesterday, that submissions close today, I would at least like to advise I have issues that may help with the inquiry. As there are so many and I currently don't have access to my workers compensation and WorkCover records at the moment, I would at least like to have my issues heard. If you wish to contact me at a later date to discuss my issues, please advise, I will then make time to put in my particular issues with WorkCover.

I have been so angry, upset and mentally unable to “fight” to appeal my workers comp claim and other issues since then, now that I am no longer in the toxic atmosphere of WorkCover, I am just coming around to being able to think to get all this unresolved issues out, as I can't even move forward with my life for the anxiety that place put me through. This is even after attending sessions with psychologists etc.

I am happy to go public with all information, especially now I am no longer employed by WorkCover. The fear of losing my job over the bullying issues is no longer a concern, since being made redundant.

Level of bullying, corruption and cover-ups went all the way to the top. Eg General Manager protected the one under them all the way down to the bottom. The people I believe need to be investigated at WorkCover in relation to bullying and harassment are the following:

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The following WorkCover staff I found to be collaborating with the perpetrators, who seemed to support those getting away with bullying activities more concerned about what I was saying about those perpetrators, rather than being concerned about me. Not impartial. Side stepping the issue and avoiding the problem.

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The following were staff that could support me in verifying the issues of what happened within the Compliance Improvement Branch. It was found that individually, we thought we were being sensitive to the way we were being treated, not realising we were all suffering similar circumstances collectively. Many of these people no longer work at WorkCover.

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I apologise for not being able to list my issues, as I said earlier, there are so many and due to time constraints to get this in this afternoon, please have someone contact me to elaborate.

I am happy to be called into any forum to support others that may submit information in this inquiry, as I believe justice needs to be served on those who have ruined our lives with bullying and harassment.

Regards