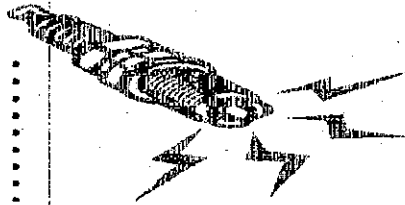


**Submission
No 225**

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Organisation: Barrie Auto Electrics Pty ltd

Date received: 17/05/2012



BARRIE AUTO ELECTRICS Pty. Ltd.

16th May 2012

To: The Chairman
Joint Parliamentary Committee Reviewing the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme
FAX (02) 9230 2981

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support to the submission made to your Committee by the Motor Traders' Association of New South Wales.

That submission argues that Industry Workers Compensation Funds will significantly reduce the deficit mainly through better management and by it having the resources to ensure that each workplace is safe and thus reducing the number of accidents. MTA has already proven that it has the ability and capacity to do this. Managing and industry fund would increase its ability to do this and its improved management and workplace safety would reduce the deficit without diluting the rights of individual workers.

The high cost of workers' compensation premiums on our auto electrical and mechanical businesses is draining the little cash flow we have and stifling our growth and expansion, we have problems finding funds for better equipment and also it is making us think twice when we even feel we perhaps should employ new staff and as owners we end up working 18 hours a day instead.

We are so heavily regulated in NSW and are paying excessive fees for every conceivable license and insurance that it is making it very difficult to keep it all going and the workers compensation fees are the largest and we get very little for it.

We had one of our senior employees on workers compensation due to a automotive accident on his way home from work, it was not his fault and he was severely injured so that he did not work for the best part of two years, we had to employ another person to do his job.

The difference of the normal amount he was getting and what the workers compensation board would pay him was significant so that he has been struggling and is way behind and he can't afford to retire, the impact on his health has been extreme to say the least, he feels betrayed by them and rightly so.

We have still kept his position open, now he comes in for twenty hours a week and we are not getting the quality or quantity of work and productivity we used to.

Workers compensation did not compensate him at all for the loss of substantial income because he is now over 65 years of age.

May 17, 2012

Page 2

My Wife and I both feel that as employers we are treated like a cash cow and we feel betrayed by the system that is supposed to help us.

The biggest rub of all is that our workers comp; fees are judged on the gross wages we pay everyone including ourselves but when it comes to a claim none of us get paid the amount of our weekly wage while on compensation, the amount I am talking about is in a lose exceeding 40% less Because they calculate the payment on award wages.

The example I can give is from the above gentleman, we were paying him \$994.60 a week prior to accident, workers comp paid him \$510.00 which is below award.

The final point I wish to make is the absolute non care factor from workers comp: about making sure he was treated fairly and in a timely manner, they dragged his medical treatment approval back until he actually passed his 65th birthday.

They should have advised him that perhaps he would have been better off going through the green slip system because it was a road accident, I am suspicious of the fact that workers comp; is getting their share from green slip.

Yours truly,

Deyan Barrie