

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE AMBULANCE
SERVICE OF NSW**

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Date received: 25/01/2010

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22nd January 2010

Review of General purpose standing committee no. 2

To the members of the standing committee,

I had decided not to make a further submission as I have totally lost faith that any thing positive had come out of the review. I realise that I was being unfair as I have been told something's had been implemented and for the better in the Ambulance service. I won't go into those changes as they aren't the reason why I have decided to write this submission.

The reason? Bullying and harassment are still alive and well and ?ignored ?swept under the carpet, call it what you like, still the NSW ambulance service does nothing. When will the leaders of the service wake up?

A prime example of the blatant disregard of this type of behaviour is the ongoing treatment by the NSW Ambulance service of Phil Roxburgh- ambulance officer who has again experience a similar situation involving bullying and harassment at Moruya he previously experienced at Cowra.

As your committee is probably aware from my previous submission (108), Phil was my daughter in law Christine Hodder's Station officer before she committed suicide at Cowra after years of contemptible behaviour directed at her by most of her fellow officers there, this took many forms, blatant bullying, character assassination, disgusting behaviours from a 'collective bully boys club' at the Cowra station who told her she didn't 'fit in' and made her life a total and utter misery, She often said "why do they hate me so much, what's wrong with me" the Cowra situation led to her seeking the 'Christine solution' and she ended her life by hanging herself from her daughters swing in the family backyard nearly five years ago. We still ask ourselves how could this happen. Why was the Cowra situation allowed to get so out of hand?

Phil Roxburgh became the target after he tried to intervene and sort out the problems at Cowra; he then went on Stress leave, never to return.

There's no point rehashing details, its all been said before. Nothing will bring Christine back. My son has lost his wife and her daughter still asks us 'why did she die'? What do we say? You cannot explain that type of animalistic behaviour to a little girl who is just 7.

For us the biggest sin now is Phil's treatment by the NSW Ambulance service for a second time. Again he came up against manipulative, bullying and harassing behaviour from an individual; Phil was put in the position where he had no option but to again go on stress leave. Did the ambulance service rush to fix the problem? No they didn't, they went through the same systems and processes that obviously worked so well at Cowra and the out come for Phil was the same. He still hoped that by working through the problems at Moruya with the service he could assist to sort the situation out. Was he wrong!!

Like Christine he has also said "what is wrong with me, it must be me".

There is nothing wrong with him he is an honest, intelligent, fine, god faring person who tried to follow though the correct channels to address a dreadful situation, and who is being mentally and emotionally destroyed a second time, by an uncaring service who have been allowed to mismanage an at times 'fatal set of behaviours' by allowing them flourish,

I am really cynical and don't expect any real change, I have seen where key players in the 'Christine fiasco' are still at the helm and some have even been promoted, That's a funny way of stamping out contemptible behaviours , I would have though 'demotion' or 'sacking' would have worked better.

When are our government leaders going to wake up? Stamping out Bullying and Harassment can only happen when the leaders in the Ambulance service who accept and therefore promote this vile behaviour are removed.

I don't know how many other 'Christine's' and 'Phil's' are out there in the service receiving the same treatment, promoted by an uncaring ambulance service because of its inept handling of the problem. Your committee needs to take a more positive stand on the problem. Its easy: don't use rhetoric use decisive action.

I am happy to be contacted about this submission.

Yours faithfully

Carolynn Hodder