

**Submission
No 293**

**INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION
SCHEME**

Name: Mr Ronald Allen

Date received: 24/05/2012

workerscompinquiry - Fwd: COMPASSION NOT CUTS

Good Morning Mr Borsak,

I was employed by Sydney Water Corporation (Nee MWS&DB) for 30 years from 1970 to 2000.

I began my employment in Western District (Granville Depot) in 1970 until its was closed in 1980 where I was engaged as a Construction Worker and was promoted to an Acting Overseer in 1974 and later an Overseer in 1976. I was relocated to Central District in 1980 Construction and Maintenance. In 1984 I was asked to go to the Overseers Training Centre at Birrong in 1984 where I was promoted to the Senior Instructor in 1988 until I left as the Senior Training Consultant in 2000 (1992 appointed and had to endure the GREAT because of an appeal against my appointment from a previous Senior Instructor).

I would have still been employed at SWC except for an incident which happened in 1977, a recurrence in 1989 and again in 1999 when I damaged my left knee and consequently my lower back. I have since had on-going medical problems as a consequence of the incidents and I have endured a number of operations to insert a Total Knee Replacement. I have had 1 x TKR and 3 revisions and each time I have contracted MRSA (Golden Staph) which has turned my life into a roller coaster. I loved my time working at Sydney Water and I still have many great friends from my employment days.

I have been informed a committee has been convened to consider a reduction and / or elimination of worker's compensation rights we have worked for and gained through negotiations over many years, and you are on this committee.

On behalf of all workers in NSW, please consider the implications of any changes to reduce / eliminate our rights under the Act because it is hard enough trying to exist on the modest amounts set in legislation. If not for my wife working we would be in a lot of strife. At the moment there are families in the community that are struggling because they are a one income family and it is a REAL struggle. The bills do not cease because you are on "œcompo", it is a struggle just to get food on the table. The workers compensation payments should be increased if there were to be any changes made to the legislation NOT reductions.

I have always notified SWC when I obtained permanent employment so that my fortnightly payments are stopped or reduced. Also, I have also notified SWC when, through no fault of my own, I have had to relinquish that employment due to health and medical problems caused by the

injury to my knee, and SWC Workers Compensation Unit have reinstated my fortnightly payments so that my family know we have some support for on-going medical expenses.

Again, I beseech you and the Committee not to reduce or eliminate workers conditions under the Act in NSW.

Regards,

Ronald "John" Allen