

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 10/05/2012

Partially Confidential

From:
To: <workerscompinquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/10/2012 11:33 am
Subject: FW: Please consider my plea about Workers Compensation

I am writing to you as I know you are part of the committee looking at Workers Compensation in this state. I am currently on Workers Compensation and have been since 2009. I fell over at work and broke my shoulder and damaged my knee. I have had 2 operations on my knee which were not successful and now it is very difficult to walk. My knee was also damaged at work several years ago when I was assaulted by school students and fell. I have no hope of improvement with this knee as it is totally arthritic and I suffer chronic pain. My husband stays at home to help me and I receive the statutory weekly benefits. According to my specialist I am unfit for work and I am 57 years old.

I did not choose to be injured. I enjoyed my job as a teacher and I had no intention of spending my older years incapacitated. I have been reading reports of what may happen to Workers Compensation in NSW and this is causing me a lot of anguish. I implore you to consider the plight of injured workers when you consider if benefits are to be reduced. I know from personal experience that a lot of money is wasted upon service providers in Workers Compensation. I underwent an assessment of my ability to work, it took 1 hour and basically said there was not much I could do. It also suggested home help and aids for me which never happened. The cost of this 3 page report was \$6,000. When you see a doctor or specialist the cost is extra because it is Workers Compensation. In fact several studies have been done analyzing fraud in Workers Compensation and the area most likely to have committed fraud are the rehabilitation providers, not the injured workers.

I know I am not the only injured worker in this situation, all I ask is that you please consider our plight. I will be very badly affected if weekly benefits are capped to the Queensland 5 years (however I think Queensland pays its injured workers more than NSW). I am very aware of the cost of this scheme and I do not reclaim the costs of my medication from the Insurer, I pay for it out of the weekly benefits and I pay for the visits to the gym recommended by my specialist out of the weekly benefits. To lose this would hurt me enormously.

I know that as a decent Christian you will consider this letter and make decisions that are fair and humane. I look forward to any information or clarification you may need from me and hope that you think of the human cost in Workers Compensation.

Could you please acknowledge that you received this e mail?

Thankyou for your time ,