

**Submission
No 252**

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Name: Ms Gail Fairclough

Date received: 17/05/2012

Injury in November 2003, in the Special Care Nursery at Gosford Hospital which has now resulted in Left and Right Total Knee Replacements (over 12 surgical procedures).

Whole Person Impairment Now 38%.

Working Hours have been reduced from 76hr fortnight to 36hrs fortnight resulting in reduction of pay which equals \$1000 fortnight.

This injury has severely compromised my life in every aspect, financially, psychologically, professionally and most importantly my General Health.

The Financial hardship this injury has brought each time I have needed surgery, increases with every surgical procedure, as after 26 weeks, workers compensation is reduced to a stat payment, which for myself means you need to top up your wage each fortnight to be able to pay your essential bills, this leads to you having no annual or sick leave.

I have had it said to me previously by a case manager from Workers Compensation that they have known of people on Workers Compensation to commit suicide..

The financial burden this puts on the worker through no fault of their own is enormous, mentally, physically and financially.

There have been several occasions in the last 8.5 years that I have thought I would have to sell my house.

The only avenue open to try and receive any compensation, is to engage a solicitor and fight the system, which I have previously pursued, this is a ugly fight and in my opinion does not compensate you adequately..

In my opinion nobody goes to work to injure themselves and receive a Whole Person Impairment that affects your life for the rest of your life and in some cases like my own severely restricts your Health both physically and mentally.

Once an injury has been accepted by Workers Compensation you would think the "path" would be easier, but sadly this is not the case.

I realise there have been occasions in the past where people have abused the system, but surely people that have done the "right thing", followed procedure should be treated with more respect and dignity.

As I stated before Workers Compensation is a "Ugly" ongoing battle that is with the injured worker for the rest of their lives, and affects every moment of their existence.