

**Submission
No 68**

**INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION
SCHEME**

Name: Mr Stephen King

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To Parliamentary Committee, workers compensation inquiry,

Sirs / Madams,

My name is Stephen King, I am a 50 yr old injured factory worker, I was employed as a crane driver / machine operator maintainer in a factory in western Sydney for 18 yrs 4 months, 3 years ago I suffered a career ending injury, Being an injured worker has opened up a world of red tape, paper trails, doctor appointments, all of which make you feel like a second class citizen or a person who is looked upon as an "injury fraudster" this is just to start with. The realization of not being employed EARNING a living and the fact that my way of life has dramatically changed has put unnecessary pressure on myself, it also means my family and their lives have changed as well, The stress and mental health issues that arise are never talked about when discussing workers compensation. it's the continual worry day and night trying to think how am I going to pay for living this week or people on the phone wanting payment, I cant refinance any loans I don't have the means to support them , I have been selling my assets to try and keep up with everything, I spent 18yrs working double shifts ,weekends ,Christmases ,days off to try and get a comfortable way of life all to be sold or taken away . Im now on micardis high blood pressure pills daily.

People in power making decisions obviously don't realise the insurance companies don't pay your full wages or entitlements , they start off paying only 80% then drop your payments after 40 weeks then again drop the percentage, this system needs overhauling (agreed) but not the way this government wants to, we need the provisions in the workers compensation act changed so people like myself can keep a standard of living until fully rehabilitated not dumped on the broken people pile. I have applied for 166 positions in 7 months,only 2 interviews resulted, I am asked can you pass a fitness test or have you ever had a works comp claim, or I tell them work cover will support me for 2 yrs by insuring me and help with wages, nothing . I get some potential employers saying you're a risk or asked are you looking for a bigger compo payout,. The compensation payout is not fair either you get a percentage payment of your whole body function. I am willing to talk to you the committee in the hope that you realize the insurance company workers compensation scheme isn't working and workers like myself are not only hurting with injury but financially as well.

Yours sincerely

Stephen King