

Submission  
No 84

## INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

**Organisation:** Alumac Industries Pty Ltd

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**11 May 2012**

**To: NSW GOVERNMENT  
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION**

## **RE: WORKERS COMPENSATION REVIEW**

**I run a small family owned sheetmetal business in the south of Sydney.**

**I write to convey my utmost concern of the threat of a massive hike in premiums (28%).**

**We employ 11 families from the surrounding areas and such an increase will force us to consider our future.**

**We are already at a distinct disadvantage to our competitors interstate, let alone our overseas rivals.**

**To me the issue seems pretty clear.**

**Claims are declining due to the massive efforts by businesses like ours in addressing OH & S issues over the past years. I know we have spent a lot of time and money in improving our workplace, fostering a culture of safety and duty of care.**

**However compensation costs are going up! My experience tells me that the medical and legal professions are gaining from our losses. If I have an injured worker, despite their intention to return to work, the medical profession encourages them to take more time off. When they are treated the cost for the consultation is 2 – 3 times that of a normal consultation! My wife recently attended hospital. It seemed they would prefer to make it a Workers Compensation case. Every opportunity was made for us to lie and claim it.**

**How much of this actually goes on? We need to take the money hungry lawyers and their medical counterparts away from being able to rot the system. I do not object to injured workers being supported in their return to work, I do object to the lawyers profiting at will.**

**It has been shown that an injured worker reduces the chances of depression and further complications if they are encouraged to return to work, even on light duties. I, for one, would do all I could to provide these opportunities.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Andrew Macquart  
Managing Director**