

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 7/05/2012

Partially Confidential

The Director,
Joint Select Committee on the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme
The Legislative Council,
Parliament House
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am concerned about rumoured changes to the workers compensation scheme that are likely to be recommended by this committee.

I have been unfortunate enough to have sustained a shoulder injury at work in 2004 due to poor work practices, which management had been alerted to prior to the injury. This has resulted in a permanent severe disability to my left shoulder, which is my dominant hand. Due to a poor return to work plan I have also sustained a less serious permanent injury to my right shoulder. As you can imagine, this has a severe impact on both my working and private life.

Despite these injuries and my employer's deliberate attempts to cease my employment I have been able to work permanently modified hours in my original job for the past six years. I did receive a very modest compensation payout and continue to rely on the statutory payment to go a small way toward compensating me for the work hours I'm no longer able to manage and the promotions I am no longer able to gain. I am also able to claim medical expenses, including the over \$1000 per year for medications I require. My understanding is that the proposed changes would result in me losing these benefits.

Although this would obviously have a major impact on me and my family at present I have already been told by a number of specialists that I will not be able to work to retirement age, in fact most are surprised that I am able to work at all. When this time comes we will be dependent on that small statutory payment. If this payment was to cease we would be forced to live in poverty.

I am aware that the present system is open to abuse, but I think the system should be tightened up rather than removing the modest support available to people who, through no fault of their own have received permanent injuries at work.

It would appear to me that the government feels that this is an easy area to reduce expenditure without a backlash from voters. I, like many others I am sure, thought that I would never be affected by workers compensation legislation as I'm always careful to follow safe work procedures and never thought I would have a worker's compensation injury. I do not think that workers who have been unfortunate enough to sustain

permanent injury should have a small amount of provided by the present scheme
withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,