

**Submission
No 64**

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Organisation: HW Barnwell

Date received: 14/05/2012

Award Winning Builders

14th May, 2012

New South Wales Government
Workers Compensation Inquiry

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I feel compelled to make a submission to the NSW parliamentary inquiry into workers compensation costs as I feel we are being treated unfairly in NSW.

We are a small residential construction company in the northern suburbs of Sydney that my Grandfather started in 1922.

We joined the master Builders Association on 25th May, 1937 and since that time, with the exception of a couple of years break during the second world war (when my Grandfather was requested to build PT boats for the war) have been building and employing carpenters and training apprentices for the residential market.

Currently we employ 7 full time carpenters on wages and have an estimated annual wages of approx. \$400,000.

The 2011-2012 estimated workers compensation premium is approx. \$20,000 and is getting out of control.

We understand the need for site safety, workers compensation and we strive to comply and adhere to all the requirements to look after our staff as they are important to us and without them we wouldn't be in business.

It concerns me greatly that in comparison to other states (such as Victoria) that NSW is pricing itself out of business and will force many businesses to close due to the rising costs of this scheme. It appears from information that has been circulated that the premiums in Victoria are approx. only 20% of those in New South Wales.

Surely the difference in the two schemes needs to be addresses and a fairer scheme for New South Wales introduced.





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One specific instance for our company was a few years ago, one of our carpenters lodged a claim for Carpal Tunnel to both hands and went ahead and had the operations etc, was on light duties for many weeks etc, meetings re rehabilitation etc etc, all Major costs to our company and yet, despite this being an injury that happens and is caused over many years, he had only been employed with us for 12 months previous to the claim.

We were also told by the company covering our workers compensation that basically the costs of all the medical fees etc would be added to our premiums over the following three years.

These costs, along with the Home Warranty Insurance in New South Wales, are making it extremely difficult to stay in business and employ tradesmen.

If the premiums increase any more we are going to have to seriously look at reducing our workforce OR closing the business completely as it is fast being unviable to stay in business in New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

K.H. Barnwell
MANAGING DIRECTOR