

Submission
No 276

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Name: Mr Les Brown
Date received: 14/05/2012

Partially Confidential

From: "Les Brown" <
To: <workerscompinquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/14/2012 11:55 pm
Subject: Workcover Inquiry

To Robert Borzak MLC .

Dear Sir , my name is Leslie Bruce Brown , I have worked as an Electrician since finishing my apprenticeship in 1967. My work was mainly Underground Power Distribution , Power Generation and Mining Substation Construction .

Firstly I would like to say that I thought that I was a valuable resource , someone who you think would be given every assistance to recover from an injury and return work in the right frame of mind .

I would like to mention two workplace injuries I sustained .

1. I cut the tendon to my right index finger . At Gosford Hospital I had an operation to repair the tendon and stayed overnight . The next morning my employer came in with my fresh set of work clothes , with him was a doctor who wrote out a Workcover medical certificate to return to work . I still had the drip in my arm . My hand was in a cast and I had a 80 k. round trip to get to work . My car was a 4 wheel drive manual .

2. I broke my right hand 5th. finger , at Wyong Hospital I was given certificate for 4 days off and told to see my doctor . On looking at the x-rays , my doctor refered me to a hand specialist Dr. . On the 28/2/08 I had an appointment to see Dr. , temporary rooms were over crowded so it was arranged for another day . I received a letter from CGU case manager , dated 29/2/08 stating that she had spoken to my employer "Mark " and "I will be closing your claim " . This is unprofessional , almost amateurish , and I was on the wrong end of it . I did not return to the specialist . Yes my finger is crooked .

An employment advertisement in the Central Coast Express by Workcover , dated 8/8/08 called for a Return to Work Coordinator Human Resources . this was to " for Workcover employees with work related injuries / illnesses and manages their compensation claims, injury management and RTW matters" . It sickens me to see that blatant discrimination when so many construction workers are being injured or killed . And what is going on at Workcover if so many people are getting injured .

The trips to work driving one handed were of course very dangerous , for this I prepared a " To Whom it May Concern" letter for my wife . I was quite sure someone was going to be hurt or killed . The letter told of my concern of being caught up in an ideology and having to risk other peoples lives .

Of these injuries and all the others I have witnessed I have never had a visit by Workcover and I would say that the model drill that broke my finger is still out there hurting people .

I would like to say that the "get them back on the job " policy has nothing at all about rehabilitating an injured worker . I was under the impression that it was a Employer – Insurance company – Medico arrangement . The policy made me bitter and I am still bitter about my treatment to this day . So why should I be left like this , because someone did not carry out their duty of care , their job .

Conclusions : Accident investigation .

Human resource evaluation .

Duty of Care .

A safety assessment of the travel arrangements of a injured worker .

Discrimination: all workers should get the same treatment model .