

INQUIRY INTO EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCIES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24 May 2017

Partially
Confidential

Parliamentary enquiry in to Emergency Services.

I joined the NSW Fire Brigades (now Fire Rescue NSW) in 197 . At this time many things were different, for example:

- A fire engine with a crew of six had only two respiratory breathing sets on board.
- No gloves of any kind were provided for protection against injury.
- Initiation rites were commonplace ranging from light hearted fun to branding and penetration.
- And orders were not debatable.
- There was bullying, discrimination, intimidation and humiliation.

Today these actions are unacceptable however I personally cannot apply today's expectations to yesterday's conduct.

Using children as chimney sweeps though once commonplace is now no longer done.

I left the service in 200 medically discharged with PTSD after 30 years of exposure to a variety of traumatic experiences.

I also did many thing over 30 years that made a huge difference to others through my service from saving lives to mowing the elderly neighbour's lawn next to the fire station.

Would I change anything if I could go back? No, even knowing the personal cost I would accept it as part of the job, because it is a part of the job.

What I cannot accept in today's era is the harassment and humiliation I must currently endure from workers' compensation insurers whose actions are far more demeaning and hurtful than anything I ever experienced in the Fire Brigade.

They seem to be able to treat firefighters, police and ambulance officers like criminals or child molesters simply for falling prey to Post Traumatic Stress through experiences at work.

Years of service to the community rewarded with inhumane treatment from these parasites is reprehensible to say the least.

Despite multiple reports from their own specialists stating I can never work again they persist with more appointments with their IME's.

These parasitic insurance companies are profit driven and strive to appease their stock holders.

The fire Rescue workers' compensation policy stands at \$21.1 million for 2015–16, a sum they gleefully accept while begrudgingly dealing with the unsavoury matter of claimants.

How do these companies get away with such unsavoury treatment of claimants under current legislation (time relevant).

I can live with "HQ" branded on my bottom with a hot coat hanger, I can accept having PTSD, what I cannot and will not accept is the dehumanising experience I am forced to endure from Employers Mutual. (the current insurer).

24/05/2017