

Submission  
No 5

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIABILITY AND  
ENTITLEMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 14 May 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

Greg Donnelly (ALP, LC)

Dear Mr. Chair,

**Re: Opposition to Proposed Changes to Workers Compensation Thresholds in NSW**

I am writing as a concerned constituent regarding the proposed changes to the NSW workers compensation scheme, particularly those involving increased impairment thresholds for psychological injuries.

As someone who has engaged with the current system, I can attest that it is already an arduous and bureaucratic process for injured workers to navigate. Introducing higher thresholds—especially without providing alternative avenues for redress—would create insurmountable barriers for those most in need of support.

Under the current system, injured workers are already required to undergo assessments by multiple psychiatrists, including those acting on behalf of the employer. This is a deeply stressful experience. To propose that, under the new changes, workers may need to face a judge **before** being allowed to pursue psychological injury claims adds a further, unnecessary layer of difficulty. It disempowers the very people the system is meant to protect.

Unlike other states with high impairment thresholds (30%+), NSW's proposal does not appear to include any compensatory safeguards outside of the PIRS framework. If passed in its current form, these changes will make the NSW scheme among the harshest in Australia. It will shift the burden from the powerful to the vulnerable, shielding negligent employers while punishing traumatised workers.

This is not just a policy issue—it is a matter of justice and democracy. If the government limits the ability of injured citizens to seek remedy, it undermines fundamental democratic principles. I strongly urge you to oppose these reforms and to advocate for a more balanced, humane approach that protects workers' rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further or to provide a written submission if needed.

Yours sincerely,

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