

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 January 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

I work for Australia Post at [REDACTED] Delivery Facility for the last five years as as a Postal Delivery Officer (PDO).

My job currently is to sort mail at night from 22:30 to 6:21.

I started as part time fixed term for three months and then I was offered a part time permanent position due to my exceptional performance as a V-sorter by the then manager [REDACTED]. After two years as a DDR I was offered a full time position as a dock hand by the then manager [REDACTED] for the same reason.

At the time I had a full time job as maintenance fitter at day time and did not accept the offer.

[REDACTED] insisted promising lots of over time and Saturday work. The offer was good and I accepted. Started working as a full time dock hand on the [REDACTED] 2006

I was one of the best workers at [REDACTED] Delivery Facility I was working overtime and Saturdays and had a good overall record.

I had an accident with a car which illegally cut my on the [REDACTED] 2007 as I was riding my motorcycle to work I was taken by ambulance to [REDACTED] hospital and hospitalized for a week for soft tissue injuries and a fractured toe and later I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder with Agoraphobia.

At the time I was covered by workers compensation for injuries to and from work.

I was forced to go back to work and start riding my motorcycle, by the then manager [REDACTED] and Australia Post's Rehabilitation Officers.

I was visited by Australia Post's Rehabilitation Officers at the hospital to bring all the paper work to fill. It felt like interrogation trying to make me "confess" that I was fine to go back to work.

The last day at the hospital I was visited by my then manager [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] was in a hurry to leave and just wanted from me to sign the compensation form.

[REDACTED] asked me if I had a pen and when I said no [REDACTED] started swearing when [REDACTED] could not find one in his pockets.

That moment there was a doctors panel visit to confirm my release and [REDACTED] ask to stay and when [REDACTED] was asked who [REDACTED] was said his manager.

My doctors suggested two weeks off work before I see a specialist, [REDACTED] intervened by saying to the doctors that one week should be enough as he can accommodate suitable duties for me. Note that after seeing specialists they certified off work for over three months.

The then Rehabilitation Officer [REDACTED] call me one day at home and told me that a fractured toe is not reason to be off work for that long.

Rehabilitation Officer [REDACTED] came to medical center to an appointment I had with my GP and asked her to reduce the two weeks off work to one.

Australia Post nominated doctors that I had never see would call my GPs to ask them to reduce time off work.

Apart from my doctors I was asked to see Australia Post nominated doctors [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], for assessment in regular basis. All these doctors agreed with my doctors that my condition is the result of the accident but their recommendation was that going back to work would be good for me For Australia Post managers this was not what they wanted. They asked me to see another doctor for assessment [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 2007.

Australia Post had provided [REDACTED] with information before [REDACTED] saw me mostly to present me as someone with behavioural issues and not reliable.

Examples are, when I said to work that I need to pay \$2000 excess to the workshop in order for them to give me back my motorcycle which they hold as warranty since I had the accident with one of their rental ones as mine was in for repairs at the time of the accident, [REDACTED] states in [REDACTED] report that I said to work that I was unable to pay for damages to my motorcycle. I had no reason to lie and never did.

Other example is that from a reference from my previous job [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED] 2005 I was made redundant because of the closure of the factory but when [REDACTED] asked me about my old job I lied by saying that I ceased work in [REDACTED] due to not being able to continue the two positions. First, the date of reference is [REDACTED] 2005 and indicates closure date [REDACTED] 2005 that was for tax purposes. Second, I said that I ceased work in December, December 2006 that is, after rehired as casual due to long service. The factory moved to [REDACTED] that still is.

[REDACTED] was asking these and other specific questions [REDACTED] new about me even though [REDACTED] indicates in [REDACTED] report that the detailed review of the documents was undertaken after the interview and clinical assessment.

He also states that I told [REDACTED] that I spent time in the Greek Army and that I described the experiences there as "pretty scary".

I did mention about the Army that was in 1989 and I said that it was a good experience and gained survival and other skills useful in every day life.

[REDACTED] was the one that mention the word "scary". [REDACTED] asked me if there were any scary experiences, to which I said as for everyone who does something for the first time like jumping off a plane or throwing a grenade for the first time it is pretty scary. I never described the experiences there as pretty scary as [REDACTED] needed to present it for [REDACTED] own benefit.

[REDACTED] had a tape recorder and everything I and [REDACTED] said is on record.

I should mention that when I sat down in a chair next to [REDACTED] desk [REDACTED] told me that I have to speak up and [REDACTED] pulled my chair closer to [REDACTED] which was rude and humiliating, [REDACTED] could instead ask me in a polite manner. That was an indication of what was to come.

[REDACTED] prepared a report for Australia Post stating that there are other factors for my current condition not related to the accident, as a result Australia Post denied liability from that day.

Please note that I never had a mental condition before the accident and either has any of my family members.

The Lost Time Injury (LTI) system, in my opinion and after the personal experience described above, is wrong, putting employees health and safety at risk on the hands of greedy managers who see us as numbers.

In my personal experience, from the moment you have a work related injury, Australia Post will do anything in its power to get you back to work in full duties as soon as possible, using every trick in the book and with scare tactics.

Australia Post employees are simple people that work for an honest living and do not know how the legal system works or the legal terms Australia Post uses to scare employees and have no option other than to comply with AP demands even though this could mean compromising their long term health.

The LTI system which is also about prevention of injuries by following OH&S policies, does not seem to apply at least at my facility.

The managers and the supervisors have not basic knowledge of OH&S.

Previous HSR was selected by the then manager, without an election.

This HSR, a part time employee, was given full time hours by the manager to look the other way when OH&S breaches occur.

I myself reported to [REDACTED] three times of OH&S breaches to which [REDACTED] did nothing to resolve them.

Myself and the current HSR, who was elected, complaint about OH&S breaches that mostly come from the manager the supervisors almost daily in order to keep the place safe for everyone.

Most of the times the manager arguing in the beginning until [REDACTED] realize that [REDACTED] has no option.

On the other hand, the InjuryNet Doctors, a well established business it is understandable that would not put in jeopardy the revenue that comes from a well pay government organization like Australia Post.

Businesses primary goal is satisfaction of the consumer, in the case of InjuryNet Doctor's consumer, Australia Post.

I am 100% sure that if I was the one who payed [REDACTED] report would be totally different and I am very positive that [REDACTED] would never puled my chair.

The system is unfair compromising employees health and safety for the managers personal economic benefit.

It needs to stop as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]