

## Submission

**To:** Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Standing Committee

**From:** Corey Reed

**Date:** 31/7/11

1. I, Corey James Reed, of \_\_\_\_\_, seek to make the following written submission to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Standing Committee with regard to The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Bill 2011.
2. Nearing the end of 2008 my dad was diagnosed with cancer. He finally lost his battle on the 29/11/09, almost a year later. Those months that he was battling cancer and the months following his death were the hardest of my life. I was 18 when he died. I'm not sure how I managed to cope with his loss and all the changes in my life that came with it. I'm still trying to cope with his death and probably will be for a long time. He left me, my 16 year old sister and my mum behind. Having your biggest role model ripped out of your life was shattering. I felt lost without him, as if because his life had ended that so had mine in a way. I had plenty of family and friends that stepped up to help me through that hard time but nothing could ever fill that void of not having a dad. One of the most upsetting things was one of the simplest realisations, that I never got to share a beer with my dad because he was too sick at the time to drink it. That's just one of many experiences I will never get to share with my dad.
3. My personal message to you as legislators and elected politicians is:  
I'm nearly 20 years old now and a lot of time has passed since those months of hardship following his death but a part of me still imagines that it's him there when there is a knock at the door, or when a car pulls in the driveway coming home from the day shift at work. I've had to step up to keep our family together and it has been a long struggle. Life has slowly started to develop a steady routine again but there is still something about it that makes it feel 'empty'. Losing my dad to cancer was the single most horrible thing I have ever had to go through, not just because I've lost his influence in my life, but

also because I know he can't help others anymore by saving lives and property through fire fighting.

4. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information -  
Corey Reed