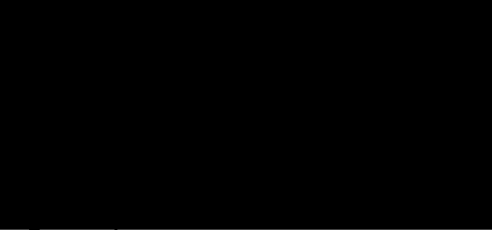


SUBMISSION OF VAIOS TSOTROS

Vaios Tsotros



Years of service: 11 years

Postal Transport Officer – Moorabbin Transport Officer

My submission concerns the role of management who seem to try and find some loop-hole to undermine what are straight-forward and honest claims about workplace injuries. Further, there is no attention paid to how these injuries are caused and how to prevent other people being injured.

1. On 9 November 2008, I noticed that my belly button had gone really red and the umbilical had popped out. My supervisor made an appointment with the FND for me the next morning. I was referred by the FND to a specialist who said I had a strangulated umbilical hernia and he operated on it the next day. According to the specialist, the hernia was not caused by a single incident but by lifting and straining over a period of time. It occurred after a period of working my normal 5 hour shift from 6 – 11 am at Moorabbin Hub and then another 5 hour shift from 14.30 to 19.30pm at Melbourne Consolidation Centre.
2. I lodged a compensation claim on 11 November 2008.
3. On 25 November 2008 Australia Post denied liability. The Delegate relied on a statement by [REDACTED] the Area Manager for the Transport Hub Network.
4. This statement cast doubt on my claim by trying to purport I had inferred my injury was the immediate result of an incident at Melbourne Consolidation Centre on a particular day. [REDACTED] confused my report of noticing the symptoms on a certain day and said I was not working at MCC on that day, when what I had nominated was that I believed working extra hard at MCC was a contributing cause. It was obvious what my previous work history had been and my supervisor was well briefed about how my injury had been discovered and dealt with. If [REDACTED] had concerns all he had to do was ask me or my supervisor.
5. Hernias are not an uncommon injury among Australia Post employees. Australia Post had been my only employer in the last 10 years at that stage, and I had not undertaken

any other home or recreational activity that could have possibly caused a hernia to develop.

6. On 9 December 2008 I requested a Reconsideration after obtaining reports from the surgeon.
7. I was put under considerable emotional and financial stress during my rehabilitation until the Reconsideration Delegate reversed this decision.