

SUBMISSION OF CAMERON HALVERSON



Length of service: 14 years

Postal Delivery Officer – Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre

1. I experienced severe pain when sorting in February 2004. I attended a company doctor, [REDACTED] who diagnosed a problem with my neck. Although I believed my real problem was with my arms and hands a compensation claim based on the FND's diagnosis was lodged on 18 February 2004 and denied on 9 March 2004. On 5 April 2004 I appealed this Decision to the Reconsideration delegate but the Decision was affirmed on 22 July 2004. On 20 September 2004 I appealed to the AAT.
2. **The provisions of Australia Post's Non-Work Related Medical Restrictions Policy were initiated on 7 April 2004. This was very stressful for me as I have a wife and 2 young children to support.**
3. I was also hit by a car in September 2004 while stationary at the lights while out delivering mail. Management kept me delivering mail for 4 ½ hours after this accident. A claim for a back injury was eventually accepted. This ceased to be active on 17 November 2004.
4. Around this time I also developed a Reactive Depression.
5. **It took me from February to December 2004 to get nerve conduction tests done and to establish that the original injury I did have was Bilateral Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Bilateral Ulnar Neuritis. On 14 December 2004 I lodged a new claim for this injury. On 17 January 2005 this was denied, and I appealed to the Reconsideration Delegate who affirmed Australia Post's decision on 15 April 2005.**
6. On 23 June 2005 I was again managed under the "Non-Work Related" policy. **On 27 September 2005 I was directed home on sick leave. On 13 November 2005 an appeal was heard in the Australia Post Non-Work Related Medical Restrictions Board of Reference (MBOR). On 13 November 2005, the Medical Board of Reference determined that Australia Post's decision to direct me onto sick leave at that time was 'harsh, unjust and unreasonable in all of the circumstances' and directed that redeployment opportunities be looked at.**

7. My appeal to the AAT was heard on 17 February 2006. After one day's evidence, Australia Post reversed its decision and undertook a reconsideration on own motion and accepted liability for my condition.
8. It should be noted that after the MBOR Australia Post did not find me redeployment but simply re-commenced the Non Work related policy paying greater attention to the due process, and another appeal to the MBOR had been scheduled for 28 March 2006. This was cancelled once Australia Post accepted liability for my claim.