



## VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_,  
Presented by Mr \_\_\_\_\_,  
Wednesday July 11, 2012.

The following Victim Impact Statement is being presented by myself, \_\_\_\_\_, due to the victim, Ms \_\_\_\_\_ being unable to appear and deliver the statement on her own behalf.

Ms \_\_\_\_\_ has a solid employment history covering in excess of 35 years in the disciplines of secretarial services, office management, public relations, marketing, professional writing and sub editing.

Ms \_\_\_\_\_ workplace bullying injury has been classed by all treating practitioners, including her own and those directed by WorkSafe to assess her, as a Serious Injury of a psychological nature. This assessment was ratified at a County Court hearing on 23 January, 2009. The injury has left her suffering Clinical Depression with associated panic and anxiety attacks, and resulted in her becoming almost reclusive and extremely uncomfortable in public or crowded situations. Ms \_\_\_\_\_ is no longer able to work and finds it quite difficult to leave the confines of her home.

Ms \_\_\_\_\_ experience throughout the whole process, which dates from Mid 2004 to the present time, has been one continuous nightmare starting when she reported the bullying and harassment to her employer. Ms \_\_\_\_\_ eventually had a nervous breakdown and attempted to end her life by taking in excess of 60 sleeping tablets as she was too afraid to return to work.

Throughout the past eight years, Ms \_\_\_\_\_ has been treated with disrespect, condemnation, in some instances belligerence by many people including her former employer, practitioners making assessments of her health on behalf of WorkSafe, insurance company staff, and legal practitioners.

The veracity of her claim and state of health has been questioned by non medical individuals involved in her case i.e. Insurance company staff and WorkSafe officers.

After making a WorkCover claim, Ms \_\_\_\_\_ has been ostracised, shunned and treated with contempt by former workmates, business associates and others in the community.

Her former employer refused to allow her to return to her position, eventually terminated her employment and declined on numerous occasions to provide a written employment reference covering the five years with that employer. Despite being keen to return to the work force, Ms \_\_\_\_\_ has been unable to secure alternative employment even though she applied for in excess of 60 positions, many of which she was more than qualified for. Ms \_\_\_\_\_ has experienced the full spectrum of rejection, scorn, and

mistrust commonly projected upon those with a serious work place injury, WorkCover claim history and the stigma of mental health issues.

Ms [redacted] lives alone and is fully responsible for her own financial support. Being out of the workforce has had a devastating effect not only on her self esteem and confidence, but on her ability to financially support herself at a time in her life when her age alone precludes her from many employment positions.

The result of this is that she has depleted her savings and her superannuation funds to support herself over the many years the issue took to come to court for compensation assessment. Ms [redacted] eventually had to sell her home, move into rental accommodation and apply for a disability support pension. When WorkSafe finally agreed to compensation (February 2012), the amount given was \$100,000 of which 65% was taken by her lawyer for legal fees.

Ms [redacted] is a much loved and respected member of a large family and was viewed by them as the family matriarch. This position has now turned around with Ms [redacted] being very dependent upon the emotional and, at times, financial support of family members, a situation which she finds demeaning and embarrassing.

The past eight years have also deeply affected her family members, particularly her sisters, who have watched as Ms [redacted] vibrant and loving personality has declined into one of a withdrawn reclusive who has little desire to participate in normal family activities, and who now worry continuously that she will take her own life as she has little desire to continue living.

It is Ms [redacted] opinion that Workplace bullying is an epidemic of huge proportions in society today and the current adversarial manner in which injured workers are treated is inhumane to say the least. Ms [redacted] believes from her experiences and observations, that WorkSafe insurance company staff, WorkSafe staff and legal practitioners treat injured workers as though they are criminals of the worst persuasion with little regard for the injured person or the injustices of the system that seems to actively work against the victims.

Ms [redacted] feels that although she was the victim or target of bullying, it is her in fact who has been on trial these past eight years whilst the bullies have never had to answer for their actions in destroying her productive and happy life.

Thank You.