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**Sent:** Sunday, 8 July 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** Committee, EEWorkplaceBullying (REPS)  
**Subject:** Sub 184 - Fw: my experiences of workplace bullying

**To:** "workplacebullying.reps@aph.gov.au" <workplacebullying.reps@aph.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 8 July 2012 12:04 PM  
**Subject:** my experiences of workplace bullying

Dear Committee members

I would like to write about my experiences of workplace bullying. I am happy for you to use this information but please use a pseudo name for myself I do not wish to be identified.

I unfortunately have worked for 2 charities and have experienced workplace bullying and harassment. I have been fortunate to work for other employers who have treated me with kindness and respect.

My first experience was at the [redacted] Melbourne. I worked in their call center from November 2007 to April 2009. I would take calls regarding donations of furniture that people wished to make. In my experience Salvo Stores is rife with bullying. As a young person I had been sexually assaulted by a family member. I moved into a youth housing program run by the [redacted] in 1994 - [redacted] and the workers there were fantastic and helped me greatly. I had volunteered at the [redacted] and had a good opinion of them. I was shattered when I experienced workplace bullying by the [redacted] The manager who employed me at [redacted] used to yell at us from her desk, barking orders. We were not given correct information needed to do our jobs then would be abused for making mistakes. This was only the beginning and it got worse. They employed a logistics manager who in my opinion was a coward and a bully. On one occasion he drove a fork lift right at me and swerved at the last minute - This was witnessed by a co worker who had been a [redacted] member for 30 years, she later denied that she witnessed the incident. I witnessed the logistics manager hitting a driver across the back of the head and he said to him, "hey how are you going dumbo" then whacked him in the back of the head. I was shocked this driver had a bit of a disability. There were other incidents where the logistics manager bullied me, verbally and made derogatory comments in regards to my mental health. On one occasion he threw boxes at me. I discussed what was happening to me at work with a person whom I knew and received some advice and plucked up the courage to confront the logistics manager [redacted]. I knocked on his door and he opened it - I said to him "your bullying and harassment of me has to stop." He could not even face me. Shortly after that I spoke to the HR manager at the time [redacted] and received no support. I ended up going to a conciliation and they offered 13 weeks pay after the conciliator [redacted] made the recommendation which I accepted.

I had been unable to work from April 2009 to December 2009. I then obtained casual work at a real estate and at . I still work at the real estate and enjoy my work there. At I suffered bullying and harassment in the form of being yelled at by nurses. One nurse hit me at the back of the head with a tea towel, I was completely shocked and could not believe what was happening. I had been patting the cat who lived in the unit and the nurse who was in her 60's and had been nursing for some 40 years said," leave (the cat alone)"and she swiped me at the back of the head with the tea towel. Nurses would yell at me and other staff in front of patients and that would make it really hard as the patients who were going through the detoxification process and suffering terribly would think they too could do the same. Threats of physical violence were made against me by patients and I was reluctant to report them as I did not believe that I would get any support. I worked there as a casual from December 2009 to September 2011. I feel so bad about my experiences there that if my life depended on it I would not go for treatment

However I have been very fortunate at the real estate agency. Also I started working casually at another welfare agency in June 2011 and still work there. I receive so much support from the staff and have learned so much, had it not been for this employer I would probably have ceased working in the welfare industry.

I am hopeful and working towards obtaining part time work in the welfare industry in an advocacy type role. I had studied law/psychology at university but self esteem issues have held me back from working in some areas of employment.

I thank you for reading my experience and would be happy to provide more information if needed, you can contact me at this email address. Thank you for the very important work that you are doing

Kindest Regards