

House of Representatives Committee

Inquiry into Workplace Bullying

An Example of Senior Management Bullying – a Commonwealth Department

Addendum

1 – I refer to my submission to the Committee provided on 7 September 2012.

2 – I wish to provide a short addendum to that submission as follows.

3 – I should have made it clear that the events and managerial behaviour referred to in my original submission took place over about a 5 month period from July to December 2009. It was only by late December 2009/January 2010 that work and reporting arrangements were eventually rearranged by Senior Manager.

4 – However, this change only occurred as a result of the kind and thoughtful intervention of a senior colleague, and not as a result of any formal workplace arrangements.

5 – Further, it goes without saying that the events discussed in my submission caused me much stress. They required numerous visits to my GP. They also resulted in my needing medication for, amongst other things, increasing high blood pressure and hypertension. Although I had taken some medication for mild hypertension as at early 2009, by the end of 2009, my medication for blood pressure and anxiety problems had increased markedly.

6 - My GP had suggested that she was willing to assist in providing material and an assessment of my decreasing health for the purposes of a form of compensation claim.

7 – Despite the above health problems, at no point did the quality of the complex work I undertook and still undertake suffer in any way. Although the workplace environment had reached a point which was unbearable, I still enjoyed and enjoy the nature of the work for which I am responsible, and enjoyed the full confidence and appreciation of senior counsel and sensible well balanced people with whom I worked and still work with today.