

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 July 2012 11:39 PM
To: Committee, EEWorkplaceBullying (REPS)
Subject: Sub 146 - workplace bullying

Dear Sir/Madam

I was employed by my workplace in 2008. I've moved throughout the workplace in various departments. I've worked as a Level 4 supervisor in one department, an acting supervisor in another and a team member in another department. In 2009 while working as an acting supervisor a new department manager started working in my department. Over the next 6 months I was bullied on a continuous basis and I kept a journal of what was said and when it was said.

Approximately 6 months later this department manager gave me a hand written note, "can we make this happen please XXXX", and with this hand written note was a double sided pornographic photo depicting oral sex taking place. I reported what happened to the store manager.

What followed was a series of meetings with the store manager, the area manager, my union rep and myself. Some of the remarks said to me at these meetings led me to believe that I was discriminated against. On one occasion the area manager said, "we know XXXX and he wouldn't do something like this". On another occasion I was shown the pornographic photo repeatedly by the area manager.

Other incidents occurred at my workplace which also led me to believe that I was discriminated against. Throughout the store security cameras are set up. When I reported the bullying and sexual harassment to the store manager I told him that the cameras at the front of the store should show XXXX watching me as I left work the afternoon I was given the pornographic photos. I was told by the manager of the store that the security cameras weren't working in the store that day. Also, the store manager asked for the photo which I gave to him but the photo went missing.

I reported what happened to me at the meetings to the Anti-Discrimination Commission. I won my case through the Anti-Discrimination Commission and received a few thousand dollars which enabled me to pay for my solicitors fees.

After taking my case to the Anti-Discrimination Commission I returned to work. Throughout 2010 and early 2011 I received low level bullying from the store manager and my new departmental manager. My health started to suffer, I was having anxiety attacks at work which were increasing on a regular basis and chest pains that were related to the anxiety. I saw a therapist for treatment with my anxiety attacks and consulted a Doctor for my chest pains. In early 2011 after another low level bullying session from the store manager and my departmental manager, I went into an office at my workplace and tried to commit suicide by trying to cut my wrists with a carton knife.

I have no recollection of the attempted suicide other than what was told to me. I recall being told to wait outside my workplace for my husband to pick me up. No one from my workplace waited with me. I went missing and was later found some kms away at a bridge. I still have no recollection of how I got there.

I was off work for 10 months. During that time I went through workcover. Workcover rejected my case. I appealed but once again my case was rejected. I got a Doctors Certificate to return to work and with help from union I am now back at work. I am still on occasion receiving low level bullying from management. My health is not 100% and my nerves are very bad. I am trying to cope as best I can.

This is only a small account of what happened to me. I was told by the Anti-Discrimination Commission and by my therapist that it was a "boys Club" attitude. I feel I should have won my case through

workcover. No one should experience anything like this in their workplace. I and others should be able to work in a safe and secure workplace without fear of repercussions for reporting obtuse behaviour which is our right to do so.

If you need to know more please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and signature.