

July 10, 2002

CLERK ASSISTANT (COMMITTEES)  
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to submit an example of a case of work cover fraud which ive witnessed in my work place.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 an employee approached me saying he had injured his neck. He then proceeded to see his own doctor.. The doctor gave him time off.T he employee then continued to return to the same doctor who for the next 5 months continued writing medical certificates. Over this time the diagnosis has changed from ,neck strain to disc lesion and now is myofascial trapizoid syndrome.

The employee has tried several times to return to work but has decided its all too hard. Eg Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> july worker was cleared to do office duties and we gave him a job to put screws into a small bag. He then returned to his doctor who told him he wasn't to do this , only office work.

The doctor is continually making mistakes on the medical certificates which ive reported to the medical board of SA.

This doctor has a bad reputation with work cover for allowing workers to go on long term work cover. As a coincidence my employees mother and aunt are both on work cover from this same doctor which he has admitted.

Doctor wont return my telephone calls

The employee is still able to move house and drive a car but unable to do the simplest job at work.

I feel that the work cover system needs to protect the employer by stopping doctors who arent interested in having employees return to work,by taking the easy way of writing a certificate to cover themselves from liability issues.. This problem could be changed by forming a network of approved registered work cover doctors that employees can see if they have an injury from work. The employer should be the only person who can chooses which doctor the employee sees.

Sincerely,



Rob Whitehead

MANAGING DIRECTOR

A & B Industries