

13th March 2010

To whom it may concern,

After lengthy discussions with Tony Humphrey he has made me aware of submissions to the Australian Senate Suicide Enquiry.

I wish to submit on behalf of all the injured workers under work cover that have committed suicide. I believe the work cover laws need to be addressed immediately. I myself have been in emergency suicidal in Dec and Nov 2008 as my work cover case is still ongoing into my ninth year. The following points are related to discussions I have had with numerous medical and legal professionals over the last two months, however I cannot reveal their names because of my ongoing case and due to work cover formulating legal restrictions where it is impossible for information to be divulged.

- Doctor revealed that they had lost patients to suicide due to work cover related issues, mainly due to the longevity of their cases.
- Legal professionals I have spoken to have also lost clients due to suicide because of the work cover system (NSW).
- Worksafe (N.T). equivalent to work cover (NSW) has also lost injured workers through suicide.

This is a continuous cycle with injured workers due to the way the work cover regulations have been implemented through government policy.

I am writing to you today as I strongly believe that there needs to be implementation of a timeframe for each individual injury sustained at work. I believe that if an injured worker cannot return to work either on light duties or their pre injury duties within a 2 yr timeframe then this should be sufficient time to prove they can no longer function in their job role and their case should be finalised.

I believe that information about suicides within the work cover system should be made available and transparent to the public as the Australian workforce deserves to know the truth of what is happening to injured workers and their families due to the dragged out process involved in settling claims.

A current event that has made me feel so strongly as I do about this issue was an injured worker incident in the N.T. where he placed an explosive device into a shopping trolley and entered the insurance company premises and injured 9 workers. This is an act of desperation from a man that had lost everything and was living in a container due again to the lengthy timeframe of his case. I contacted the N.T police in regards to this matter and strongly suggested for them to interview worksafe N.T to find out the full background of this man's injury claim before he is sentenced. They agreed to do so.

I have also been informed that all work cover CEO's in Australia had a meeting in Feb 2010 to discuss legislation and the possibility of unifying all policies for work cover claims for the whole of Australia. I would like to know if this uniformity will occur.

Please respond to me as soon as possible as I have already contacted the media in regards to this matter and would appreciate a swift response.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards

Christine Mulligan