

Dear members of the Senate Committee,

I was injured in an accident in October 2004 when a motorist entered a bicycle lane and collided with my bicycle. I suffered multiple fractures of my right clavicle and required 3 weeks off work plus lost time in a graduated return to work. I was on my cycle route home from work on a suburban Brisbane street when this accident happened at about 6.00 pm. I had my bike lights on as it was dusk and was wearing yellow clothing to improve my visibility. I was not at fault; the motorist was, according to police who attended and investigated the incident.

I was covered by workers compensation and was able to easily and quickly have my medical bills paid and my income uninterrupted.

The changes proposed by the Federal Government to remove the mantle of protection of Federal and ACT employees on the journey from home to work and return, provided by current Comcare Workers Compensation place a further work-related burden on workers. Certainly it is possible to pursue recovery of costs for personal injury through the court system however this is expensive, slow and leaves the employee vulnerable to financial hardship at a time when he or she is likely to be in pain, shock and stress from the trauma suffered.

I request the honourable Senators analysing and evaluating the proposed legislative changes take into account the value of current Comcare Workers Compensation in aiding the quick return to work of employees of the Federal and ACT Governments who suffer an injury on the journey to and from their workplace and their home.

Yours sincerely,

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