

# Injuries Australia

Mr. Herb Plunkett  
Assistant Commissioner  
Workers Compensation & OHS  
Productivity Commission  
PO Box 80  
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Sir,

Injuries Australia congratulates the Commonwealth Government on its initiative in establishing the above inquiry. We welcome the opportunity to put forward our contribution which we will base upon the actual matchless experiences of our members who have been injured and/or disabled by negligence in the workplace and robbed of their lively-hood by a failed Workcover system.

As a contributor to the Industry Commission Inquiry into Workers Compensation & OHS (1993/1994) our members have been aware that the Commonwealth has for many years been anxious to see established a national standard of work-place safety and a after injury/return to work system. Injuries Australia welcomes a national system as it is not only common sense, it is a absolute necessity if we are to ever get an economical and humane service. However, we are concerned as to how the legislation will be framed so that it is easy to understand, that it will ensure the strictest policing of the legislation, the accountability of ALL of the people involved and guarantee return to work for the unwillingly work injured.

Our submission has been divided into two parts. The first explains the many reasons for our concerns with the current Workcover system and the people who profit from it. We offer a brief history of past Workcover ineptitude and waste, express our concern for blatant discrimination against work-injured employees such as the use of the highly inaccurate A.M.A Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, the failure of the States to carry out their legislated duty of returning work-injured people to employment and the refusal to allow unhindered outside investigations into the cause of each work place death or injury along the lines of what we see with motor vehicle caused injuries. We conclude with a proposal of an economical and more humane alternative method of how human work safety and after injury care could be conducted around Australia. All of this first part may be published.

The second part consists of papers on human safety and injury which Injuries Australia had produced over time so that the scope of our work may be understood. As well we have included papers from other people who express their concerns along similar lines of thought as Injuries Australia. Our intention is that if the Commission can read them then they may obtain a wider view of the enormous problems within the current state run systems. This second part of our submission will be separated and we ask that it be treated as "CONFIDENTIAL"

The introduction of an economical National Work-Safety and After Injury Care System which is accountable, transparent and which will return the work injured to employment will be the single most important change to industrial relations in Australia for many years, and will be of great benefit to employers, employees and the whole community. Provided that it is designed to prevent it being hijacked by the self acclaimed "professionals" who feast on the current unsatisfactory arrangements. These people will violently oppose any change which will benefit the injured & which will effect their power and pocket. Injuries Australia wishes the Commission every success with this important work.

Yours Sincerely

George Cooper  
Director Injuries Australia

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