

The Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Sir / Madam

RE: YOUR REVIEW OF THE QUEENSLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION SCHEME

I am writing to you in relation to your review of the Workers' Compensation Scheme in Queensland.

I suffered an injury while at work on 23 June 2010. My employer refused to allow me back to work or more subtly suggested that there was no work for me to perform. I have had significant difficulties finding work.

Unfortunately WorkCover assessed me as having a permanent impairment at 0% which is ridiculous. I am no longer able to perform my old duties.

I was able to pursue a negligence claim against my employer and ultimately received a sum of money that has allowed me to at least move on and attempt to rehabilitate myself. If I was not able to pursue this claim, I would have been in a lot of trouble.

I understand that one of the proposals put to my Government is to prevent people like me with a zero percent impairment from bringing a claim.

In the circumstances, I would ask that the Queensland Government not change the system we have in place. I understand it is one of the best working systems in Australia and as this legislation is supposed to benefit injured workers, I believe there should be no changes at all to the Compensation Scheme.

If the Government changed the system to one that prevented workers such as myself who have been assessed at having a 0% impairment from being able to pursue a negligence claim, I would have been in big trouble. I would be out of work and have received no monetary compensation to assist me in my rehabilitation. Not only would I have been disadvantaged but my wife and family would have also been disadvantaged.

I would ask that the Government please consider the workers of Queensland and in most cases the low income earners that would be highly disadvantaged if any changes were made to this legislation.

I am more than willing to either discuss this with my local member or the Committee and can be contacted on the following mobile number

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory Barnes".

Gregory Barnes

CC Mr Neil Symes
State Member for Lytton
PO Box 227
WYNNUM QLD 4178