

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 refer to the above and note that the Government is currently undertaking a review of the Workers' Compensation Scheme in Queensland. I understand that the Government is considering preventing certain injured workers' from pursuing what is known as a negligence claim. This is of great concern to me through my experience of suffering an injury at work. Although the injuries I sustained at work were quite minor in nature (in WorkCover's opinion), it was recommended by my treating Doctor (as opposed to a WorkCover Doctor) that I should change employment.

I received a 0% lump sum offer and a further minor lump sum offer which I did not accept and I ultimately pursued a negligence claim against my employer. I believe one of the options proposed by the Government is to prevent a person with a 0% impairment from pursuing a claim. If this goes ahead I would have been severely disadvantaged as I would not have been able to pursue a negligence claim. I believe this is unfair and see no reason why in circumstances where an employer is negligent and fails to provide a safe system of work at work that I should not be entitled to pursue a negligence claim against them regardless of what impairment I may have suffered.

My payout guaranteed my financial future and will provide me with a small nest egg to guard against any future difficulties or treatment I may require for my work injury.

I would ask that you consider the effects of any amendments on those of us in the community that would be severely disadvantaged if these changes are made.

I am more than willing to discuss this issue with my local member or the committee should they wish to discuss this with me. My contact number is

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Russell Smith".

Russell Smith

CC Mr Trevor Watts
State Member for Toowoomba North
PO Box 155
HARLAXTON QLD 4350