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23 July 2012

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

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Admin Johns

Dear Sir

## REVIEW OF THE QUEENSLAND WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

My name is Philip Mark Luck and I was most recently employed as a police officer with the Queensland Police Service. I suffered an injury in the course of my employment.

The injury that I suffered resulted in me being unable to complete my duties as a police officer and accordingly I was medically retired. My injury was caused solely by the negligence of my employer.

Workcover Queensland assessed my injury and made me a small offer of lump sum compensation reflecting my permanent impairment. The amount of compensation I was offered was very small considering my need for ongoing treatment, the fact that I had lost my employment and the fact that I would need vocational retraining.

I obtained legal advice that I had a potential claim in negligence against my employer and I instructed my solicitors to commence same. As a result of that process I achieved a lump sum payment of damages.

That amount of damages has allowed me to continue with my medical treatment and to seek vocational retraining and alternative employment.

I understand one of the purposes of the review is to restrict or extinguish an injured workers entitlement to negligence actions. As a police officer one is required to be physically fit and capable to undertake their duties.

Accordingly even a small permanent impairment may result in an officer being unable to continue their duties and be medically retired.

I should point out that my injury was suffered through no fault of my own and solely due to the incompetence of my employer. Had there been restrictions in accessing damages I may have had no entitlements and accordingly be financially disadvantaged which would affect my ability to provide for my family.

I understand that the Workcover legislation seeks to balance the rights of the injured workers as well as employers. I believe by restricting access to negligence claims injured workers would be unfairly prejudiced.

I request that these submissions be taken in to account by the committee when considering the matter further.

Yours Faithfully

Philip Luck

Cc: Mr Reg Gulley Member for Murrumba

PO Box 76

Deception Bay Qld 4508