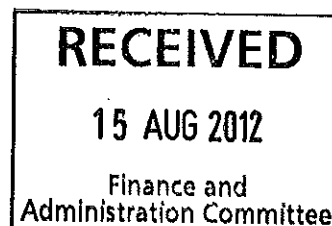


Deborah Jeffrey

067



Dear Committee,

I have worked in Allied health as a Rehab Counsellor and at WHSQ and now as Injury Management Coordinator.

My suggestions follow:

- 1.If employers paid the first \$300 of medical bills (like an Excess) for employees injured at work claims would be halved where I work in any case.Most employees just want their injury recorded and their medical bills paid.
 2. If employees were made aware that common law "wins"require them to pay back medical, wages etc they may not proceed.This information should be made available before common law actions.Since common law action is about "justice and the principle" in many cases then a "win" capped at say \$100K would serve the same purpose.
 - 3.Early Intervention is far preferable to after care so all employees I believe should be made to offer EAP /counselling free to employees and all bullying complaints should be mediated by EXTERNAL provider to avoid escalation.
- Physical claims would also benefit by Providers (not only companies) offering RTW services.Workers recover more slowly when it is a claim according to research.My observation is also that workers injured once are injured many more times after or aggravations occur when they are upset in the workplace.This re-opening of claims should not occur.When closed cases for the same injury should stay closed.
- 4.The whole premise of compensation should be an entitlement so I think the rate paid to injured workers should be less than they normally earn e.g. 70% of normal wage to provide an incentive to return to work quickly.

I hope some of these suggestions are helpful in your deliberations.

Anna-Maree Osborne