

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 September 2012 3:47 PM
To: Albert Electorate Office
Subject: Workers compensation

Hi Mark,

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I believe the Govt is asking for feedback on Workers Compensation.

I am a small business handmaking chocolates with 4 employees. Yet my workers compensation bill is \$5185. I find this a ridiculous amount based on very arbitrary information.

Previously I also owned a café and also a retail shop. The workers compensation rates for these businesses were significantly less because the multiple they have assigned to those types of businesses and, I assume, the risk factor is deemed much lower. We make chocolates. The risk to any of my staff at the chocolate factory is much lower than the risk any of my staff ever faced at the café.

Yet, there is no consideration given to the fact that I am a small business. No one actually comes to have a look at our premises to assess the workers compensation risk. I am just grouped in with other huge confectionery manufacturers whom would have a lot of possibly dangerous equipment and possibly very hot products and assigned a number of 4.11 because that is the risk factor assigned to all confectionery manufacturers. So, my workers compensation bill is 4.11xwages. This is way too much for a small business like mine to cope with. The total bill is more than the total bill when I had the café and we had more than 12 employees.

I can not afford to pay it and the system really needs to be changed so that either there are different categories or it takes into account the size of the business.

Regards
Lynda

Lynda Bos
Managing Director
Poppy's Chocolate
[REDACTED]

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