

Sent: Friday, 8 May 2015 12:06 PM
To: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: FIFO, DIDO, BIBO or anything else

Categories: Submission, Logged in Corro Register

Regards this practise, it is harmful to individuals, Families, Communities, Employers and the Australian way in General. I am 60 years of age and have worked in the Underground Coal Mining sector for 37 years in a range of positions:

- Underground Fitter
- Underground Miner
- Underground Mine Deputy
- Under Manager
- Training and safety
- Emergency response coordinator
- Operations Manager – Mines Rescue
- Mine Superintendent.

For most of my life I have lived in the community near my place of work which has meant living in semi remote communities to a point. I have also in Moranbah been a part of the Local Fire Station as an employee of Qld Fire and Rescue (15 years). My kids grew up in Mining towns and were educated there and participated in organisations such as Scouting, Football clubs, Cricket Clubs and the SES. In the past I have come home to family meals and activities daily had my weekends to do chores or to participate in community events or family events and felt a part of something. That now has been taken away due to living away from home during work. I am a different story and do not have an enforced in and out routine and don't live in a camp. However I still suffer effects and understand the consequences of this current madness being forced on to some people. The way that I see this in terms of the costs to people, families, community and even employers is this

- The individual doing the in and out cycles
 - They are losing any control in their life by not being a part of family events such as births and birthdays and graduations.
 - They have decisions made by partners when needed to be made because the person is not there, they are at work.
 - Things at home are changed when you come home and you ask why. General answer was because and you're not here all the time anyhow.
 - You start to have some resentment at times.
 - You go home and get dragged around to things which you hadn't planned and don't get to do what you planned
 - You miss your family and the phone or vid conference is no substitute.
 - Some go on the alcohol and drugs or at least think about it.
 - You are not sure who your GP (Doctor)is because you are here this time and away the next – who is your GP?
- These peoples families
 - Lose some connection with the person due to them being away for times on end.
 - Have to make decisions at times without input.
 - Miss out on having the person cheering them on at sports, graduations and award ceremonies to say the least but other events are missed as well.
 - Alcohol and drugs can also crop up in this case.
 - Families lose respect for the person. Well you're never here.
- The localised communities
 - People are less likely to assist at community events.
 - People are less likely to attend local events.

- People are unable to volunteer for community organisations which are depended on (auxiliary Fire Fighter, SES member, local community support groups etc)
- Less people living in mining and industry communities therefor government withdraws resources because of the numbers game.
- Community not thriving anymore.
- Businesses walk away as the wages are taken to other communities.
- No new infrastructure.
- Losses due to collapse in real estate values
- The employers
 - Employees thinking about home day rather than work, more injuries and incidents, unsafe work place.
 - Employees only working to make ends meet not interested in the job.
 - Increased absenteeism due to wanting to be with families for various events and celebrations.
 - They blow a full roster because it's more convenient rather than going a long distance for 1 or 2 days .
 - Prone to fatigue travelling long distances and potential vehicle accidents, injury or fatality. Regardless of what rhetoric is spoken this is still a problem in some places.
- The Australian way
 - Individuals become insular and think more of themselves because this lifestyle requires that.
 - We become less inclined to support community organisations due to wanting some quality down time.
 - We don't interact with neighbours because we are all insular and worried about my patch.
 - Volunteer groups fail because people don't have the time.
 - The local sports clubs fail because they don't have the best teams to field due to this lifestyle practise

These are just my thoughts and in some cases how I feel about these things. I will resign from the fire service this year because it is to hard and I have to much to do at my full time job and the family thing on my days off. I don't like going to events with a lot of people because it's all to hard and not a relaxing thing for me. Fly in and out is here to stay and some people love it but in essence I am not a fan. Yes some are in it for the big bucks but at what cost. No company has the right to tell me where to live and that should always be my choice and companies conducting that practise should be prosecuted for discrimination at the least. There are companies doing this because they are trying to de unionise their sites. That will never happen because they are incapable of treating their employees well.

As my Government I expect that you stop these type of activities and ensure that people at least get a choice. What is going on now in not safe and in time all will see this.

Cheers

Lindsay Creighton

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