

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
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By email: eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Senate Inquiry into Australia Post's Treatment of Injured and Ill Workers

[REDACTED]
APS: [REDACTED] (16 years in Post)
Mail Officer 4pm shift Small Letters Family (SLF Team B)
AUSTRALIA POST - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am 39 years old next month. I started work in Australia Post on [REDACTED] 1993, first as Christmas Casual at the former International Mail Centre, [REDACTED] and then on February the following year worked permanent Mail Officer at the former [REDACTED] Mail Centre.

I relocated to [REDACTED] in 2001 when all our work at [REDACTED] Centre relocated to [REDACTED].

In 2005, I suffered a work related lower back injury while performing working in a machine (CFC). I was sent to Australia Post's FND, Dr. [REDACTED]. I was told I had permanent restrictions. The FND Dr [REDACTED] was basically like my treating doctor since and he was good to me.

I again was injured at work on [REDACTED] 2008. They sent me another FND [REDACTED] same office with [REDACTED].

They rejected my compensation claim for the new injury but also they ceased my accepted claims on the first injury I suffered in 2005.

Because I am appealing, I went to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their necessary support I require for my appeal. I thought they were my treating doctors and both have told me that my injuries are work related.

But both declined to help me because of 'conflict of interest'. I don't understand.

I tried to look for another Doctor but nobody wants me. They said they don't want to get involved with Australia Post. It seems all are reluctant to help me each once I mention Australia Post. I felt they feared Australia Post.

No GP would even want to help me so I can comply with the direction by Australia Post that I should ask my GP to complete their so-called Non-Work Related Medical Certificate, as my restrictions are no longer work related. If I don't provide Australia Post with the Non-Work Related Certificate I will be directed on sick leave.

If not for the assistance I get from my Union I would have been directed on sick leave. I lost my reconsideration appeal.

My main issue is I realised both Australia Post FNDs I have mentioned above have ran away from me when I needed them most. I also realised that they have never issued me with work cover certificates so there is no record for me that I had a work related injury from day one. Both FNDs are providing Australia Post with medical certificates under a heading 'Treatment Only', which I don't also understand.

I wish and hope that the Senate Inquiry will find justice to employees like me who fell victims because of FNDs.

[REDACTED]