

Friday 4 Oct 2019

Lyndal Breen

Subject: Compensation enquiry

To: [consultation@sira.nsw.gov.au](mailto:consultation@sira.nsw.gov.au)

My name is Lyndal Breen

The points I wanted to make relate to the situation where a person is injured and is deemed to have recovered. There is no clear way to reactivate assistance if or when the original injury flares up again.

My [REDACTED] [REDACTED] hurt his lower back about ten years ago when he was in his early 20s. He was attempting to move a security fence (approximately 5' high chain wire with concrete weighted feet). He was on site alone at the time. The injury was a slipped or bulging disc and he was off work for about 6 weeks having physiotherapy and a cortisone injection in his back. On his return to work [REDACTED] worked in the office as a project assistant. Unfortunately the company eventually went broke so his employment ceased.

[REDACTED] now has taken a number of laboring and factory jobs over the years from concreting and factory work, most of which requires heavy lifting, and sooner or later he has to give up such jobs because he hurts his back again. Because it is an existing injury there is no assistance from workcover that he knows of.

[REDACTED] now works part time and is classed as having a disability which entitles him to some assistance from a specialised job search agency.

I believe that there needs to be ongoing monitoring and follow up for any one with this type of chronic or recurring injury. This would be achieved through maintaining permanent contact with the individual, and also through opening communication between yourselves and centrelink and the job search agencies on the injured person's behalf.

Claimants would be assisted by having an account where they can enter ongoing problems with further work as well as receiving follow up such as assistance to access physiotherapy in instances where the problem flares up.

Yours faithfully, I

LYNDAL BREEN