

North Coast school boy left to fend for himself

4 December 2006

Nathan was just 13 years of age when he was involved in a tragic motor bike accident, through no fault of his own, near Murwillumbah in 2003. He suffered severe lower spinal damage and extensive fractures and breaks.

Despite serious injuries to most parts of his body, Nathan was denied access to proper compensation. He had to pass an injury threshold of more than 10 per cent under NSW law but missed out by 1 per cent.

Similar to Nathan, thousands of other people in NSW cannot access proper compensation for their pain and suffering due to drastic changes introduced by the State Government to personal injury laws in 1999-2005.

Nathan's case is being highlighted as part of a new statewide campaign - "A Fair Go For Injured People". Peak bodies from the legal profession will launch the campaign in Tweed on Monday, 4 December to draw public attention to the effect these laws have had on injured people in the North Coast.

Law Society Junior Vice President Mr Hugh Macken said the Government's changes to workers compensation and motor accidents schemes resulted in arbitrary, inconsistent thresholds for personal injuries.

"The arbitrary thresholds are stacked up against the individual and make it impossible for injured people to access proper compensation," said Mr Macken.

"Since 1999 green slip insurers collected \$8bn in premiums and in the same period only \$1.8bn was paid out in benefits. A miserable 22.5 cents in every CTP green dollar collected has so far gone to the injured.

"The legal barriers in NSW are far too harsh and need to be changed so that genuine victims like Nathan, receive the compensation which they deserve," said Mr Macken.

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Notes to Editors:

Campaign Launch on Monday 4 December 2006 at 12:30pm (NSW time) Quality Resort Twin Towns (Terraces Room) Cnr Griffith Street, Coolangatta QLD & Wharf Street, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Speakers will be Hugh Macken, Junior Vice President of the Law Society of NSW, Dr Lynette Arnoldus, Psychologist.

A Fair Go For Injured People



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