

Giving Newcastle residents a fair go

8 November 2006

A workplace accident that wasn't his fault has changed Newcastle father of four, Bruce's life forever.

Like many other people in NSW, Bruce cannot access proper compensation for his pain and suffering due to drastic changes introduced by the State Government to personal injury laws in 1999-2005.

Bruce's case is being highlighted as part of a new campaign "A Fair Go For Injured People", which was kicked off in Sydney by four peak legal bodies; Law Society of NSW, NSW Bar Association, Law Council of Australia and Australian Lawyers' Alliance.

These groups are launching the campaign in Newcastle today in conjunction with the Newcastle Trades Hall Council to help spread the word about the unfairness of the New South Wales compensation system.

The President of the NSW Bar Association, Michael Slattery QC said that 9 out of 10 workers in the Hunter region who are injured through no fault of their own are left with no right to access fair compensation for their pain and suffering.

"We are calling for uniformity across all personal injury schemes and for the introduction of more humane thresholds to determine who is eligible for compensation.

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

"It's about time both the Government and Opposition begin to listen to the victims who are the ones suffering from the injustice of the system," said Mr Slattery QC.

Notes to Editors:

Campaign Launch on 8 November 2006 at the Trades Hall, 406-408 King Street, Newcastle at 1:00pm.

Speakers:

Gary Kennedy, Secretary, Newcastle Trades Council. Catherine Henry, President of Newcastle Law Society, Michael Slattery QC, President of NSW Bar Association, Bruce (Newcastle case study).

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A Fair Go For Injured People

