

Case Study: Sarah Has Lost Her Sense of Security

Sarah*

Five years ago, Sarah*, 45, was working as a nurse and sonographer in a public hospital in Sydney's southwest when she experienced severe pain in her neck, shoulders, back and arms.

For five months, Sarah noticed increasing pain in her neck and upper limbs. Over time, she began to lose her upper body strength and had to take time off work to cope with the pain.

One day, as Sarah was attempting to complete an ultrasound of a patient in intensive care, she noticed acute pain in her neck, shoulders and arms and tingling on the left side of her body.

She pushed on for two more days before finding herself unable to keep up with even light duties at work.

Several times, Sarah attempted to return to work, but found that her back pain worsened until she experienced pain and tingling down her right leg.

Scans revealed that Sarah had sustained several injuries to the discs in her spine. It is accepted that these injuries were the result of the physical nature of her work.

Two separate doctors assessed her degree of impairment at 36 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. However, the AMS doctor assessed Sarah at 0 per cent.

She is angry as being assessed at 0 per cent despite medical evidence to the contrary.

She cannot understand how a supposedly objective system can result in such different assessments by different doctors, based on the same scans.

She is angry as being assessed at 0 per cent in the face of medical evidence to the contrary.

Sarah will not receive a cent for pain and suffering because she falls below the 10 per cent threshold to claim compensation in New South Wales.

The loss of Sarah's income means that her family is no longer financially secure.

The legal barriers to fair compensation in NSW are too harsh. They need to be changed.

Contact your local MP and make your views known. Nothing will change unless you take action.

**Name has been changed.*

For more information visit www.faircompensation.com.au or phone 1800 357 596.

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