

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 June 2012 6:02 AM
To: Committee, EEWorkplaceBullying (REPS)
Subject: Sub 132 - Submission into Workplace Bullying -
Attachments: Statement of claim - House of Representatives Committees Amanda Rishworth MP.docx; Re-assessment of claim.docx

House of Representatives Committees
Amanda Rishworth MP

Please find below an outline of my Workplace Bullying experience within the Federal Government.

My Workplace Bullying story starts after 3 years of fantastic employment with a Federal Government Department. I was re-assigned to a new team, not long after the Team Coach was moved to another department and an Acting Team Coach was appointed.

At the time she and I had a friendly working relationship, by that we would talk everyday, two or three times a day about tv shows, books and music that we had in common. At the time the Twilight books and True blood tv show were just released.

In a team meeting in 2010 "A" yelled at another co-worker and walked out of the meeting, after 20 minutes walked back in like nothing happened. 15 minutes after the meeting "A" pulled me aside (in a one on one meeting with not witnesses) and asked "was my behaviour in any way inappropriate?"

My answer was "I can see your side and I can see his side and I do not want to get involved." "A" walked out unhappy with my answer as i believe she thought i would support her.

From then on "A" stopped speaking to me, would not include me in team lunches, Birthday morning teas, meeting etc. "A" even went as far as to stop team members speaking to me, threaten my employment in one on one meetings, approved my annual leave and flex days in on breath and then took them way in the next, yelled at me in front of other co-workers on more than one occasion and so on. "A" sent emails to management that lied about my behaviour, threaten formal counselling/discipline.

After reporting "A" to Human Resources I was told to keep a record and time line, have a meeting with the manager. I held the meeting with the manager in the October 2010 and she treated both me and the situation as a joke stating "We are all adults and you and "A" need to start acting like adults and I am not going to intervene on your behalf and nor should I have too."

After making a formal complain the treatment got worse, I was isolated from all employees in the department, when I reported the bullying to the union I was told that they had received a number of reports from other union and non union members about both the manager and "A" but before they could act I would have to join the union. As far as i know the union never took further action on behalf of either the union members or non union members.

I was told by a friend that a meeting was held and everyone was told not to talk to me. There were two meeting held by "A" directing the team not to speak to me or have any contact with me.

After over 12 months in the acting role "A" was taken away from the role and moved back to just a Service Officer.

A new Team Coach was employed after a year and I was told "to see how it goes." by both the Assistant Director to HR and the OH&S Consultant. The new Team Coach was worse and the treatment not only continued but began to get a lot worse. I was Bullied, Harassed, Discriminated, Victimized, Intimidated, Threatened, Sexual Harassed and Psychological Harassment and Mental Abuse. I was put under performance review for false accusations and rumours were spread about me. In the end I became really sick and was forced to resign due to extreme health issues.

I suffer from Major Depression, Anxiety, Panic Attacks, PTSD, Social Phobia and Agoraphobia (Fear of leaving the house) and I have even thought about suicide a number of different times. I am fighting for Workers compensation even though they have rejected my claim twice stating that it was my employers right to treat me like that. The only option i now have is to appeal through the AAT.

I am unemployed, can not hold a job, looking at being medicated for life and at 32 being placed on a pension due to the fact that I have major trouble leaving my house.

I am currently applying to Centrelink for the Disability Support Pension and for the last 3 months have had no employment and Centrelink have still not accepted my claim or approved a temporary benefit, so i am left wondering is this a continuation of the workplace bulling i was subjected to while i was employed by the Federal Government?

I have attached two attachments. The first attachment is my statement of claim or time line of the events and the second attachment is the re-assment of my claim i have submitted to Comcare.

I wish to request that all my personal information to remain confidential. I wish to be contacted if the information that i have provided will be used.

If you require further information, please contact in writing at the below address.

Yours Faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]