

From: Committees
Sent: Monday, 17 July 2017 8:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Submission to ACT Insecure Work Inquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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From: Connor Drum [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 July 2017 2:11 AM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission to ACT Insecure Work Inquiry

Attn: Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

This is a submission into the Inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT, via the submission tool provided by UnionsACT. I have agreed to provide the following:

Submission by: Connor Drum, [REDACTED]

I was employed through employed through a labour hire agency less than 3 months ago.

My pay was paid regularly and promptly. However, I was rostered to work nights over weekends, often as late as 10pm starts with 2-3 am finishes, and I received no penalty rates. The one time I raised the topic of my pay with my employer was following a shift he had asked me to go and work in Civic, where the promised five hours turned out to be only three - when I mentioned that I had come out to work specifically on the understanding as discussed over the phone that I would be paid for at least a four hour shift, he refused to admit that the conversation had taken place, and accused me of acting unprofessionally in looking for someone onsite during the shift to sign me off as having worked a shift. Not only is it totally unacceptable that I am forced to work without penalty rates at totally unsociable hours, and that I was intimidated for trying to get my employer to keep his word, making someone work such a short shift (after having had to drive in and out to get there) eats up a significant portion of the pay earned. The only reason that my employer got away with this, is that I was employed on an extremely uncertain basis, and he could keep me quiet by only offering me just enough work to get by - since complaining about my treatment, I have been offered no further shifts.

I was asked to work in the dark, often on my own with shoddy equipment at heights, or carrying heavy loads into trucks for loading. WorkCover, or any kind of workers' protection, was laughed off derisively when mentioned. I only ticked yes to the third question in this section (i.e. "Did you feel you could discuss health and safety without risking losing your job?") because I did in fact raise these issues, and the whole matter was dropped because it was understood that these unsafe conditions were simply part of the deal, and that I must therefore be overreacting, and would soon calm down. If I had seriously complained about health and safety, and gone to a government agency, I would certainly have lost my job.

I experienced.

This happened when I worked at [REDACTED] in Canberra.

This happened in the labour hire sector.

If I were the Government, I would lengthen the minimum shift for labourers, introduce penalty rates and ensure that all workers in these industries knew that they had a right to those rates..

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