

Craigieburn Man Fined for Defrauding WorkSafe

A Craigieburn man was fined for fraudulently obtaining more than \$6,100 in workplace injury compensation payments and for making false declarations in relation to his workplace injury claim.

The Broadmeadows Magistrates Court heard that the man was working as a storeman in 2006 when he injured his back while lifting a box. His claim for compensation was accepted and he received weekly compensation payments.

Evidence revealed however, that while in receipt of compensation payments, the man was working as a security guard at various pubs and clubs. He did not disclose this when he submitted his workplace injury claim form. Throughout the duration of his claim the man also continued to formally declare that he was not engaging in any form of employment.

The man pleaded guilty to one count of fraudulently obtaining payments under the Accident Compensation Act 1985 and to two counts of making a false declaration. He was fined \$2,000 and ordered to repay the \$6,166.18 in compensation he obtained fraudulently.

In addressing the court, Magistrate Ross Betts said this case was a serious matter and that the integrity of the WorkSafe system needed to be protected by the law as "fraud pollutes the whole system".

WorkSafe Executive Director, Len Boehm, said "identifying and prosecuting fraud cases helps to protect honest workers and employers, and maintains the integrity of the Victorian scheme".

Being Proactive not Reactive!

The article below demonstrates the negligence of a company which resulted in the death of an employee caused by changing a light bulb. We urge employers to be more proactive and to take action to prevent accidents, this includes providing adequate training, protective equipment and effective work procedures for your employees. Master Groccers Australia can help you be more proactive as an employer.

\$300,000 fine for company after worker dies

Inadequate training, a lack of protective equipment and poor work procedures has led to a conviction and major fine for the employer of a man who died while changing a light bulb.

"Other employers must learn from this company's mistakes" said WorkSafe Executive Director John Merritt. "As this company demonstrated, safety improvements can be achieved quickly, but you don't have to wait until someone dies."

The company carries out maintenance on display signage and pleaded guilty to one charge laid under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

Their employee died in hospital four days after receiving an electric shock as he removed broken glass from a 'live' light fitting in April last year. He had not been provided with protective gloves and was using an un-insulated screwdriver.

Passing sentence, Judge Sue Pullen said the company's working practices were grossly inadequate or non-existent. "Simple procedures could have prevented the death of this young man. It was only good luck that there had not been a fatality before."

This was the second workplace fatality case heard at the County Court under the 'new' Act which increased the maximum fine from \$250,000 to more than \$990,000.

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