

John William Rinaldi



October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Principal Research Officer  
Attn. Doctor Sarah PALMER

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Legislative Assembly Committee Office.  
Level 1/11 Harvest Tce  
Weat Perth.WA ..6005

Dear Doctor Palmer

I am writing to you to see if you can assist me and also maybe many other medically retired WA Police Officers. Men that have been discharged due to sickness & injuries whilst acting in the execution of their police duties.

I refer to the recent WA Government calls for Submission re evaluation WA Police Performance

Men that have lost their jobs and careers in the execution of their duty.

I joined the WA Police Force in 1973 and served in many areas of the WA POLICE DEPARTMENT . From CIB to General Police duties and then Traffic Country/GD patrols. From the lower S/ West to The Gold Fields and Metro area.

I had been assaulted on numerous occasions over my 26 years of service.(see attached list of pain & stress related injuries) .I was injured on numerous occasions and hospitalised 3 times. Those were the days of single-One man Police Stations and we had no pepper sprays , Tasers and Firearms. Our nearest back up was 2 hours away and the police radio was not 100 % as well. For 13 years I was always on lone patrol by myself. From the 1980 to 1993.

There were times my wife had to answer the police phone, search female prisoners, make prisoners meals and clean the station.

Back in 1998 I had suffered with several injuries and then as well with PTSD and was treated for several months and was on Police related sick leave , until finally medically discharged by the Commissioner at the time...being... Commissioner R .Falconer. When being discharged I was still under going several courses of medically treatment and was on sick leave.

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I was not given any extra time , help or finances .I was just discharged under section 8 under re medical reasons. I was not allowed to seek legal help and have a representative present to discuss being discharged.

I had waited about 12 months hoping for his representation by the Police Dept & the Police Union ..I was hoping for assistance from WAPS in the future.I was also told by The Legal Aid Commission I could not get help as there was no government funding for medically injured police officers.

Due to my mental condition I had no fight left in me and was told by the WA Police Dept and also the Police Union something was in the pipe-line to help to assist medically retired police officers & apparently legislation was being drawn up.This was back in 1999.A MP by the name of Murray Cowper was assisting us. But nothing happened.

I wrote to the Commissioner of Police, the Police Minister and Premier at the time for help with my medical expenses , all that told me they have no legal responsibility to help. I did write a letter to the Governor and he wrote back to say he would look into my request but to no avail he did not get back to me.

My wife had to go out to work to help pay for my medical bills and I was in receipt of a small Government Employees Superannuation Invalid Pension.This super pension was not enough to live on but too much to get a Centerlink Health Care Card.

\*The lazy unemployed, the drug dealers and illegal immigrants can get a health care card but a medically retired / injured police officers can not.

On average my medical& medication bills was about \$4000 a year due to Police Dept related injuries.

Then in 2007/2009 we were told that the WA Police Post Separation Scheme was made law and I made about 12 claims due to my extensive injuries.

The Police Dept approved some and referred the rest to The Insurance Commission of WA for inquiry.

I have had 5 claims approved which took 100s of hours of compiling reports and filling in medical paraphernalia. My doctor (Dr ) of 15 years ordered me out of his office and told me not to return as he will not have anything to do with ICWA /Insurance matters. He was not prepared to fill in the many files that was associated with ICWA matters.

I had to go to a new doctor to help me do reports and assist me with some claims .Not only this the ICWA sent me to many of their doctors and specialists that acknowledge my injuries only to be knocked back on some and denied assistance by the ICWA.

From the very start of this procedure its been pain staking exercise just to get some extra help.

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The Police Dept wouldn't give me any records only to say I have to go to the freedom of information section and pay a fee of \$67 for each record. I needed several files and didn't have \$1000 to spare, just to information on myself.

The 50 reports I had complied and sent to WA Police Health and Welfare section weren't sent to ICWA and I had to do another 50 reports and give them to ICWA myself.

On one occasion I had contracted asthma in 1980 and is ongoing whilst in WA Police Force due to ,carbon monoxide and drugs searches etc etc and was receiving paid medication by WA Police dept 1980 to 1998.

When I made claim for this the ICWA specialists Professor Dr                      agreed and only to be knocked back by ICWA.

Also The Southern Cross & Busselton Police stations were built of Asbestos and have both been pulled down since .The whole building was asbestos.

We had a hearing with Work Cover and ICWA brought solicitors, Queen Councils & Police Dept staff , against me and paid thousands of dollars in legal fees to knock back my claim for a \$10 Ventolin Inhaler each month. A medication in which the WA Police had previously paid for .

Where is the reasoning in that???

Not only that during the mini hearing the ICWA solicitor made lite of my claim and laughed at me and I felt belittled with so many against me for such a small claim. Work Cover were of no help to me and a paper tiger in my matter.

This scheme is cruel and unkind and ruthless to us medically retired officers .

I don't need more stress and the hurt, I have been through enough!!!.

What we need is an advocate and someone to speak for us..I don't have any money for expensive solicitors.

I did see Gordon & Slater in 2005 and they said I have a good case for injury compensation and recon I could get \$1,000,000 but if I lost I could be up for \$60,000 costs ..WHO HAS THAT MONEY ???

I decided to hold on and have hope& faith The WA Government would bring in legislation to help us.

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Its the same scenario ..us begging for help only to be faced with hurdles again and again. There needs to be an inquiry into this WA Police Post Separation Scheme we do need a advocate to help us and we need more help & consideration.

The stress I have gone through over these past 7 years is excessive and regurgitation of past injuries is not fair.

My case officer for ICWA is she has been helpful in some matters but her hands are tied re 7 of my other claim.

It seems that the ICWA wants 100% case proved but set themselves up as medical professionals , judge and Jury and what they really are is an "*Insurance Company*". Their judging matters on medical matters and when I have a claim on medical injuries I get knocked back.

I have been sent to about 10 medical specialists for ICWA..why cant I be sent to one professor to make a complete overall assessment of me and just say Yes this man is in need of financial assistance with his medication.

We ...The WA Serving Police need a Workers Compensation Scheme..its 2015 not the medi-evil ages. Every state and Police Force in Australia have a workers compensation scheme for their Police Officers but not WA. Where is our equal rights?

From what I have been told there is about 400 officers been discharged due to injuries over the past 15 years...these officers are getting little to no help from the WA Government.

Is here anything you can do to help us get a workers compensation scheme in place <sup>encl</sup> ~~on~~ and for all .

I am also willing to give evidence re this matter ,if so required..

Yours Sincerely

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John William Rinaldi  
(Medically Retired Unfit Police Officer  
1973-1998)

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