

Trish Kelsh

25 June 2020

Standing Committee on Legislation
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace Perth WA 6005

By email: lclc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Ms Tracey Sharpe,

Submission in relation to *Work Health and Safety Bill 2019*

I write as a bereaved wife in relation to the *Work Health and Safety Bill 2019*, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I am writing to express my strong support for section 30B of the Bill, Industrial Manslaughter – simple offence, and share my personal experience of industrial manslaughter in Western Australia when my husband passed away.

Desmond Kelsh passed away in a workplace tragedy at Myaree 2002. He was 47 years old.

Des was working on the roof when the building supports gave way. He fell to the ground and crushed by concrete and steel.

The main supports of the first building had been dismantled, and the building could not take the weight of its own roof. Various flaws accumulated and caused my husband Des his life.

The legal trail became part of my journey, and for seven years a case was 'pending' until they closed my case under the note that it was costing too much. I received a token payment considered good will, and I continued life, for our family.

Without punishment, there is no deterrent to prevent other families experiencing our nightmare, and no system in place to protect our population who go to work each day and deserve to come home knowing their workplace is as safe as possible. Manslaughter laws will act as a deterrent and make possible a great reduction if not elimination of death through work fails.

On a personal note nothing can change for us. Des will never return home, our lives changed that fateful day and remain changed. I am asking that Desmond's life matter, and the lives of all who never made it home after a day's work matter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make a submission on this important Bill.

Kind regards,

Patricia Kelsh