
SA Government erosion of workers' rights means injured are suffering severe hardship

Tuesday, 23 February, 2010

Few people are aware of the unnecessary suffering being endured by injured workers in South Australia – suffering that is a direct result of government policy,” Australian Lawyers Alliance, Tony Kerin, warned today.

“The government has systematically stripped away the rights for workers to gain adequate compensation, which means that if someone you care about is injured at work, due to employer negligence, they cannot sue for the recompense needed to treat their injuries,” Mr Kerin said.

He said the right to recover damages for injury, sustained from the negligence of another, was a common law right – a cornerstone of our legal system.

“South Australia is the only state in Australia where workers have no right to sue their employer for negligence,” Mr Kerin said.

“This is simply not good enough! Why should any worker suffer the stress, hardship and indignity of not knowing where his or her next meal is coming from, simply because of a flawed system?

This massive injustice must be stopped.

We, at the Australian Lawyers Alliance, promote justice freedom and the rights of the individual and as such demand a return to every worker of their common law rights,” Mr Kerin said.

He urged the community to take steps to ensure the government heard the message of this marginalized, vulnerable group of people.

“Phone or email Mike Rann’s office. Tell him what you think. Phone your local MP. Write a letter to the editor. Vote for any candidate who promises to stand up against this injustice!”

For details contact public affairs manager, Mandy Wyer on 0418 270 656 or Alliance SA President, Tony Kerin on 0417 809 579.