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27<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**RE: Harmonisation of the Work, Health and Safety Regulation.**

Dear Alex Marsden,

I Luigi Scibiia of 20 MacLarty Way High Wycombe, I am concerned with the impact that the new Work, Health and Safety Regulations will have on my business. I strongly disagree with it.

I am an employer and business owner for over Twenty-Eight years. I was Trained in theory as a Advanced Scaffolder by Western Australian work safe building inspectors, two hours per week, for twelve months and Completed my twelve months of hands on experience and a letter from my employer to say I have completed my work experience before I had received my ticket, a total cost of \$300

As an employer I have had first hand experience in how nationalising of Scaffolding training had impeded and damaged my business and the Industry.

In 2008 on a Perth Building site we had three trainee scaffolders and two licensed scaffolders.

In 2008 Southside Scaffolding was stopped from working on a Perth project the job and workers where told to go home. The union knew of the new National changes of the training scaffolders, as we the employers knew nothing of the new changes.

Today due to the National changes to the scaffolding industry the powers to be have removed the four to one ratio training, this in turn meant that we are not able to see if a scaffolder was capable of doing scaffolding.

When there is a shortage of scaffolders due to the mining industry, We the scaffolding Industry are left paying for labourers to get their scaffolding tickets and thier weeks wages so they are able to work in the industry.

And in our case we also paid for their blue cards. As the employees are mostly new and are not able to meet these costs.

These costs are over \$1,000.00 after Building Fund paying \$700.00 per employee. (BASIC SCAFFOLDING TICKET ONLY).

In many cases once the employees receive the benefit of a free paid scaffolding ticket from the employer they leave to work in the mines or they seek more money without having work experience or on the job training.

These days many small businesses are not able to make any profits and in fact are making losses.

With the event of any new changes there will be more adding costs and this will be at small Business.

Over the twenty eight years of being in the scaffolding industry, I know very well that every body wants safety and builders what safety, but you will find it is the small contractors wearing all the costs in changes to safety and training. Small contractors and are not able to pass on the costs.

**MY QUESTIONS ARE:**

1: When the demand is high for scaffolders and a shortage in the industry. And we are not allowed use labourers as trainee scaffolders. Where do we go to fill this short fall?

2: If the new changes are made by the Western Australian Government to join in a National Health, Work and Safety regulations. Are these going to cost small business.

3: I have also found that when government departments change regulations it becomes impossible to amend any of the changes. Is there going to be a means of a hot line in Western Australia to raise any complaints.

4: Will small business be informed of the out come?

5: Will there be a revue, if so and when.?

**FARMING:**

I have been running a small farm in the South West for seven years have noticed in farming industry children and not staying on the land due to the low incomes derived from farming. Also most if not all farmers are run by families. If there where to be any increased safety and training the cost would close many farmers, more work is needed by the Western Australian Government in this industry.

Sorry for the poor letter head as I am working with an old printer and computer on the farm.

Director of Southside Scaffolding.  
Louie Scibilia