

The Far North Coast Law Society Inc.

A.B.N. 69 997 764 902

A Regional Society of



The Law Society of New South Wales

16 March, 09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dear Sir

As you have recently reported, bullying in the schoolyard is only a fraction of a very large problem. This form of discrimination is increasingly prevalent in today's workplaces. The 'Beyond Bullying' Association estimates that up to 2 million working Australians will encounter 'bullying' in some form in their workplace.

Local solicitors are seeing the victims first-hand. Adults suffering workplace related bullying experience feelings of degradation, low self-esteem, reduced productivity, depression, stress and anxiety. The isolation coupled with emotional and physical stress often leaves victims feeling they have no alternatives but to leave the offending environment, rather than further endure the humiliation being dealt upon them nine to five.

It is important that readers are aware that every Australian worker is protected by the relevant legislation...The Occupational Health and Safety Act specifically requires your employer provide a working environment that does not endanger your health or safety. Bullying focused on disability, race, sex or age is equally unlawful and strictly legislated by Anti-Discrimination Acts.

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There are a number of local solicitors who specialise in Employment Law which governs your workplace conditions, your rights, your contract and unfair dismissals. If you are being victimized, getting legal assistance is an important step towards redeeming your self-esteem and making the offenders accountable for their behaviour. For further, confidential information about specialist Employment Law Practitioners in this area, contact the Far North Coast Law Society at chuegill@nor.com.au

I commend the Northern Star in its efforts to highlight a problem with the potential to become endemic if not properly recognised by the community as a whole.

Article Prepared on behalf of the Far North Coast Law Society.

Clarissa Huegill is the Regional President of the Far North Coast Law Society and can be contacted at chuegill@nor.com.au



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