

EXE2008/1899

SECRETARY'S OFFICE	
18 NOV 2008	
Initial	.....
To:	Mr. Hoeben for Action

Dr. Ken Henry,  
Commissioner of Taxation

SONJASTANDLEY  
58 Newland Street  
Bondi Junction 2022  
15<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

Secretary

Dear Commissioner A SUBMISSION FROM THE PUBLIC  
No reply is required

You are working on the reform of the tax system!

I enclose some tax office information for a young man of 32 who despite a reasonable education earned only a very average amount of money working in a building capacity for a company called St Hilliers where he was employed for two years following his graduation from a TAFE Building Course where he topped the class. He was offered the job. He also had a B.F.A. from the UNSW obtained earlier. He had a "chequered" career history. I mention this mainly to show you he tried to become educated and is intelligent, able to do the work.

For the low income indicated, St Hilliers expected him to drive halfway across Sydney, beginning about 6am, pay for all costs associated with that, to pay for a necessary mobile; they overloaded him with unfamiliar work and left him at the mercy of thuggish men, as is common in the building trade. He lasted the two years required as work following a TAFE Diploma in Building, then worked briefly for a friend on a site in Rose Bay. He had been a sort of contracts administrator in a site office at Hilliers who were building a supermarket. Staff were requested to work until 7-8pm. The people earning the most income are the owner whose job it is to obtain business, and more established staff. No doubt this is "par for the course".

I object on his behalf however to the amount of tax someone like he is has to pay on the low income; which did not suffice to pay for his simple life in Sydney in a cheap shared flat, so that he would have run up debts on an expensive nab credit card, had I not been able to help him at this point if not before. Such a person has no ability to buy accommodation in the future anywhere, or even to buy clothes, a car, yet the tax office extracts a lot of tax from him and when he is a contractor sort of worker he has complicated returns to do and must employ a tax agent or accountant.

2. The tax agent seems good but something went wrong as Julian claims he handed in all his income and Julian is generally honest. Further, the income is low, a petty matter, although not when it applies to most of the population. IS THERE ANY WAY A STAFF MEMBER COULD DOUBLE CHECK HIS RETURN FOR THAT YEAR? I have a belief that a staff member might have been mistaken.

Yours faithfully, Sonja Standley

S Standley

Incidentally my son is travelling abroad and would perhaps object to my writing this letter. I have no wish to prejudice the attitude of the taxation department towards him but as an individual thought I would raise this matter with you.