

25 June 2018

Marie Boland
Safe Work Australia
GPO Box 641
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Boland,

This is a letter on behalf of SANE Australia in support of Owen Thomas's submission to the 2018 Review of the model WHS laws. We agree that greater flexibility needs to be provided within the contemporary workplace to ensure that all Australians have the same opportunities to engage in meaningful work.

SANE Australia is a national mental health charity working to support four million Australians affected by complex mental illness. SANE's work includes mental health awareness, online peer support and information, stigma reduction, specialist helpline support, research and advocacy.

Australia lags behind all OECD countries when it comes to providing employment opportunities to those living with mental health problems. These rates are more significant for those living with complex mental illnesses such as Schizophrenia, Borderline Personality Disorder, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Greater flexibility is needed in the existing law to ensure that all Australians, including those living with complex mental illness are able to be engaged in work that helps them lead a meaningful and flourishing life.

We are supportive of the legislative mechanisms that support people with Complex Mental Illness to have the same opportunities as those already in employment. We strongly believe that the use of telework and the flexible nature of its application can help facilitate these opportunities.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Michelle Blanchard
General Manager Research, Policy and Programs