

# Case Study of an Injured Tasmanian Worker

## Caroline Farquhar

**C**aroline Farquhar, 34, was working as a sales, purchasing and marketing officer for a paint company when, in 2003, she suffered a serious workplace injury.

A 200 kilogram paint mixing machine, which she was helping her boss move, fell on her injuring her shoulder, lower leg and ankle.

More than two years later, Caroline still experiences problems in her lower leg and ankle as the result of crushed nerves and muscle damage.

Her injuries make it difficult for her to walk or stand for any length of time, and she experiences severe pins and needle sensations regularly. Her right leg and ankle constantly ache.

Caroline also experiences sharp pains, similar to an electric shock, across her foot on a daily basis.

Growing up with parents who ran a successful small business for over 35 years, Caroline has a strong work ethic, which makes it difficult to accept that she cannot return to her job.

The injuries have also had a negative affect on the rest of her life, significantly damaging her confidence and self esteem. Depression and anxiety are a constant daily battle for her now.

Caroline is no longer able to be participate in activities she once enjoyed. She used to be heavily committed to spiritual and self-help counselling and enjoyed walking her dogs. Home improvements and extensive gardening projects were also passions. She can't do any of these now without painful consequences.



Doctor's have assessed Caroline's injuries as 6 per cent whole person impairment, making her ineligible for common law damages under Tasmania's worker's compensation laws.

"I was really very surprised at the low percentage rating. I have no idea if I can work, no idea as to when, or if, my life will get back to normal," Caroline says.

"At times, especially when my condition is exacerbated, I go through the process of asking myself – 'is any of this worth it? Would my husband & family be better off, without me around?'"

"My entire life has been turned upside down. All this for a freak accident that wasn't even my fault!"

For more information visit [www.taslawsociety.asn.au/tort](http://www.taslawsociety.asn.au/tort)

## Fairer Compensation for Injured Workers

