

THE RIGHTS ISSUE

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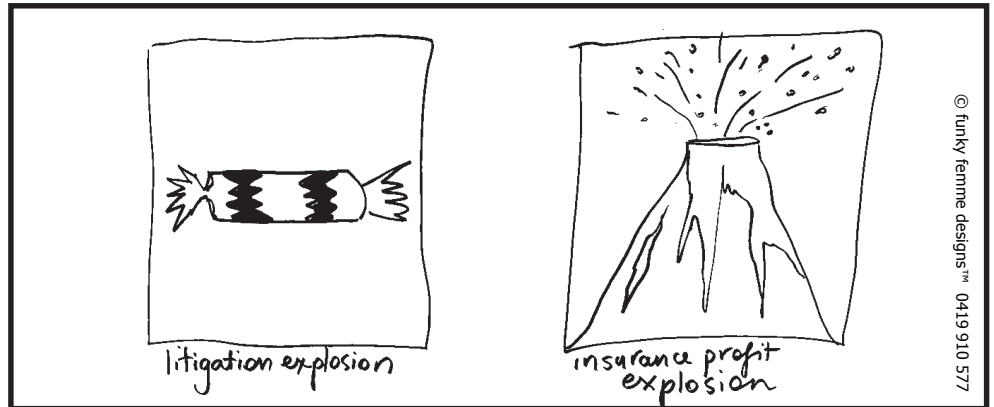
Injured SUBSIDISE Insurance PROFITS

Profit results for Australia's insurers have just been announced. The combined profit totals **\$2065 million**. For IAG and Suncorp their profits are only for six months. If we combine the big insurers profits for the last reported full year they total a massive **\$2561 million**.

These are profits that have been subsidised by the Government outlawing claims to compensation. Promina announced that it was going to return up to a **quarter of a billion dollars to shareholders**. This is money that should be going to pay legitimate claims so that people injured through negligence have the resources to restore their broken lives.

The scale of this insurance industry profit result proves without a shadow of a doubt that as a society **we can afford to look after victims of injury**. The Government's lack of action proves that when it comes down to it, they just don't *want* to.

Instead of feeling the shame of selling out the injured to the big end of town, they congratulate themselves that they've helped to make public liability cover "more available." They're right that it's more available. If only we had rights to make a claim.



LENDERS' "loose with truth"

My old grandpa once said to me, "Whenever you point at somebody there's always 3 fingers pointing back at you." And so it has been once again with Minister for Right Cutting, Mr John Lenders.

When asked on ABC's Stateline program recently about his cuts to rights Mr Lenders said "**Nobody in Victoria is prevented from suing**

and anybody who says to the contrary is loose with the truth."

Ironically, it is Mr Lenders who is making the "loose" statements. People whose injuries fall beneath the medical threshold, or aren't permanent are not "*prevented*" from suing.

However, Mr Lenders has **removed the compensation that these injured people were suing to receive**. Mr Lenders knows that the cost of running a case to receive medical expenses and lost earnings is often more than the damages at stake. Particularly if you don't receive a wage.

Therefore, in theory people aren't "*prevented*" from suing, **but in practice Mr Lenders has made it just about impossible to see any of the money the injured person is entitled to**.

And if you think insurance companies will hand over your expenses and lost earnings on your negligence claim just because you asked nicely, you oughta' pinch yourself. Because you're dreaming.

Insurers' profit results

QBE

up 43% to \$820m (full year)

IAG

up 47% to \$446m (half year)

Suncorp

up 47% to \$413m (half year)

Promina

up 53.7% to \$458m (full year)