

Before we commence our normal proceedings, let me just say the following. It is generally known that on Thursday evening a senior solicitor working for the Commission suffered severe injuries in Melbourne while walking home after a long day's work followed by a dinner attended by colleagues from the Commission.

How those injuries were suffered is a matter being investigated by another agency of government. What the consequences will be is something which will in due course be considered by yet another agency of government. It is desirable to state at this stage only that there is no indication that the injuries suffered arose out of anything to do with the Commission's work.

The Commission and persons affected by its work have been operating under great pressure of time and tension. Thursday's incident is a reminder that there are some things which are even more important than day-to-day pressures. All those that work for the Commission are distressed about what has happened and hope that there will be a full recovery. That is a hope, I am sure, which is shared by the many witnesses and other people affected by the Commission's work, with whom the solicitor has had contact over the past months.