**Supporting Working Parents: Pregnancy and Return to Work National Review**

Submissions from women and men who have experienced discrimination at work while pregnant, or while on or on return to work after taking parental leave

**Submission Number: 184**

**Part C Submission Response**

When I was pregnant with my first child, my colleagues were supportive and caring.  
  
However, when I returned to work after maternity leave, my colleagues, and my manager, became nasty. I returned parttime, at three days per week. Upon my return, I was allocated the exact same workload before MAT leave (when I had been a fulltime 5 day per week employee.)  
  
My manager told me that I was affecting her other staff, whenever I took carers leave. If I was on carers leave, work would ring 5+ times per day.  
  
I began taking my daughter to daycare when she was sick, to please my employer. She refused to be pleased with me.   
  
I approached my manager approximately one year after returning from maternity leave, to tell her I was once again pregnant. I asked for time off work to allow me to have an abortion - as I could already appreciate that I could not cope with the demands of work and raising two babies.   
  
In 2008, one could only seek an abortion on every second Friday. My manager advised that I would only be allowed the most immediate Friday off, and not the Fridays coming soon as she was taking leave. I was not allowed any more sick leave for recovery. I felt pressured and bullied into an early abortion.  
  
When I returned to work, my colleagues from near and far all came to congratulate me on my pregnancy, and ask my due date.  
  
Naturally, I was confused. I stated that I was not pregnant. They advised me that [my manager] had told them I was.  
  
[My manager] kicked me out of her team the next week.   
  
My decision to abort was based on false grounds. My Department refused to listen to my complaints against [my manager] for bullying and harassment.  
  
I have spent the last 5 years feeling so ashamed - everyone at my workplace must know that I had an abortion thanks to [my manager].   
  
I have no confidence, and I am a poor mother to my child.  
  
I am a shadow of the employee that I used to be (both mentally and physically.)  
  
I want [my employer] to apologise to me for not taking action when I raised the issue with them, and I want [my employer] to acknowledge that the behaviour displayed by this woman is not acceptable.