

## **Submission 394**

My immediate workplace was very offensive (constant sexist slurs, inappropriate jokes and sometimes staring). I beat my boss at a game and he bullied me from then on as he did not like the thought of losing to a female, and kept trying to assert his dominance over me. He would throw things at me, emotionally abuse me with insults or deliberately making sexist comments because he knew I found them offensive and so on. I informed the workplace and they conducted an investigation, however I later discovered the male they used to interview him was the closest friend he had there at the time, and also would routinely make sexist comments, jokes and so on. That is why I didn't report it to him in the first place, I knew there would be no point. I doubt anything happened to change their behaviour, and I was later victimised for reporting it. I believe if the workplace had kept its conflict of interest policy the outcome would have been different. Yet there is nothing one can do about it. A number of others also left due to the inappropriate environment, but did not report it because they too knew it would be ultimately pointless. It's concerning that companies don't need to perform any due diligence in the investigations process. Perhaps there should be an Ombudsman specifically for harassment and bullying and subsequent policies, the workplace one doesn't seem to cover much in this area.

All this has had an impact on my career.