

To the Parliamentary inquiry into Commercial Passenger Vehicle Reforms,

I started driving Taxi's back in 1989. Due to back injury, my physical ability was limited to do any physical work. I had a young family and needed to work. Couple of years later, I purchased my own Taxi license and remained in the industry since. I worked very hard and very long hours to pay off the Taxi license. We had no family car or other luxuries for years. Twenty years later or about, as we began to approach our 50's, we started to think about securing our retirement future. After very long and careful discussions, we decided to invest in our second cab license. The cab license cost us \$500,000. We loaned \$475,000 from the bank. We thought it was a very safe Government regulated investment as every time a cab license is bought, sold or leased, you had to submit your paper work to VTD for approval. With Uber appearing and operating illegal in Victoria, our income from driving Taxi and leasing our other license immediately decreased a lot. We were forced to sell the second cab license as we were struggling to meet bank repayments and the struggles only got worse. We sold the cab license for \$280,000 at a loss of \$220,000. We gave the money from the sale to the bank and the other license was taken by the government for \$100,000. This was also paid to the bank for the taxi license loan and we were left with \$180,000 owing to the bank after all of our losses. Instead of looking forward to our retirement with some dignity we were left with nothing at all, but a financial crisis. Our 30 years of hard work all went down the drain through no fault of ours at all, but much to trusting our state government. We do not deserve this, nor does anyone else. The only way our situation will ever improve is if our state government will consider the human side of all of this and have some compassion and sympathy by compensating people fairly for taking away their property and income. This is Australia we live in, not some communist country. Our logo should be a fair go.

From Johnny Sawan

