

From: [REDACTED]
To: [taxiinquiry](#)
Subject: Submission - Taxi Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 10:46:30 PM

To the Legislative Council, Economy & Infrastructure Committee,

I am emailing to put forth a submission to the Victorian Taxi Inquiry.

My name is John Roumanos and I reside in the Northern suburbs of Melbourne with my wife and five children. I have been a taxi operator/driver for the last 31 years, alongside my father, Peter Roumanos, who has been a taxi operator/driver for the last 56 years. Together, we have operated up to seven taxi licences.

My father and I have successfully run our business in the taxi industry up until the introduction of Uber into Victoria approximately five years ago. This, along with the way that the Victorian government has handled the deregulation of the taxi and hire car industry has devastated us not only financially, but physically and emotionally, the effects of which has also been harshly felt by our families.

In regards to the financial effects we have suffered as a result of the deregulation of the industry, we purchased two additional taxis, one in 2009, at a cost of \$395 000, and another in 2012, at a cost of \$475 000. The deregulation of the industry and subsequent open entry to run a taxi business has left us in significant financial debt and has crippled our once thriving business. Our decades of hard work and dedication to this industry has now left us in a position where we face losing our assets and our business. At the age of almost 54 (and my father, almost 75) and having only known the taxi business, we are at a loss of how will continue to survive.

In addition to the financial burdens, the day to day running of our taxi business has become near impossible, given that we have been unable to even find drivers to work on the taxi, and when we finally are able to find them, they leave very quickly, due to the lack of fares and the flooded competition.

All of this additional worry has caused me significant health issues, both physically and mentally. I have had multiple visits to the GP and hospital emergency departments in relation to chest pain. I have gained a significant amount of weight, and no longer have the motivation or energy to keep fit through activities i used to enjoy, such as going for long walks with my wife or jogs with my 17 year old son. I have become emotionally withdrawn from family, and have ceased almost all of the socialising and other activities that i once did with my family. This has caused my family to also feel the burden, thus creating an unsettled and tense household.

From being in a financially stable and successful position in life, we now no longer feel confident about what the future will hold for us. We were in a position where we felt we would be able to retire and not utilise government pensions for our retirement, to now wondering about the ongoing personal ramifications caused by this deregulation.

We are hard working and honourable Australian citizens. We have dedicated our lives to our families and our business, and both have been devastated by the happenings within the taxi industry over the last approximately five years.

We are respectfully requesting that our submission be considered during this inquiry and that we be fairly compensated for our losses.

Yours sincerely,

John Roumanos



Peter Roumanos

