

Christina Smith

From: Joseph Dias [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 May 2019 3:24 PM
To: taxiinquiry
Subject: Taxi Legislation & Reforms
Attachments: Scan4.PDF; Scan3.JPG

Dear Madam/Sir

Attached is a brief description of myself as a representative of J & V Agencies Pty Ltd that were operating 13 Licences that we owned and 1 on lease. Please consider our application and our financial situation that we are facing at the moment due to the Taxi Legislation and Reforms by the Victorian Government.

Thanks

Joseph Dias
J&V Agencies Pty Ltd

[REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Joseph Dias and I migrated to Australia in August 1984 with my wife and son. My wife and I started working the next week after arriving in Australia and my son went into Child Care during the day.

In 1985 I changed jobs and started working at National Australia Bank (NAB). During the same year I quit NAB and joined the then State Bank of Victoria which became the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). My daughter was born in 1985. I worked at the CBA for nearly 15 plus years. While still employed at CBA, I worked on weekends as a part-time taxi driver and in 1997 I bought my first Taxi Licence. My wife worked with the State/Federal Governments since 1986 until she resigned to help me with the Taxi business in 2004.

From 1997 until October 2017, I had purchased 14 licences and operated 2 private licences.

I worked very hard 24/7 devoting my energy and time building our business and having only 2 weeks holiday in almost 20 years. My wife also carried the load as she worked fulltime with the business, cared for the kids and looked after the home.

My super savings from CBA and my wife's super from working with the Government was all invested towards purchasing Taxi Licences in the hope that this would be our retirement fund. Unfortunately the Victorian Government had zeroed the taxi licences. At the moment we owe the Banks \$1.6 million between NAB and Arab Bank and our monthly repayments (interest and principal) is approximately \$21,000.00. Since the de-regulation of the Taxi industry, our income has dropped drastically as there are no drivers and the Taxis are idle.

My income before October 2017 was approximately \$30,000 per month clear money after meeting all expenses including bank repayments. Presently my income is \$5,000.00 per month approximately. I am not able to meet my bank repayments of \$21,000.00 per month as the income has dropped. My children have been helping me make the bank repayments.

My request to the State Government of Victoria is for a reasonable compensation for my taxi business which has collapsed entirely. Since all this has happened, my health has taken its toll. I have had 5 stents and 2 balloons in my heart. My diabetes is out of control due to stress. My family life is on the verge of collapse as my wife is also disappointed with what's happened with the taxi industry. We have worked so hard to be self-sufficient and not rely on government help. We created employment for more than 35 staff in our company, took out the required WorkCover, paid our taxes and GST to the Government and have ultimately been left with a debt of \$1.6 million when we have done nothing wrong and are heading towards financial ruin. The stress of the taxi industry collapse has caused enormous pressure on our health and marriage. A review of our case and our financial situation by the Victorian Government would be greatly appreciated and beneficial to us and all others in this situation.