

From: Lucia Losinno [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 10:48 AM
To: taxiinquiry
Subject: FOR URGENT ACTION: Submission from Leo Mauro

Rod Barton
taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

RE: Parliamentary inquiry into Commercial Passenger Vehicle Reforms

Dear Mr Barton

Thank you for your letter.

My name is Leo Mauro and I have been working in the taxi industry for over 60 years. Blood, sweat, tears and many daily sacrifices went in to build up this asset and business. The government's corrupt and initiated reforms decimated by honest and humble business which I built up and slaved over for the last 60 years, just for it to be taken away from me by the reforms.

I was one of the migrants of the 50s who came to Australia under the racist White Policy. The government 70 years on are still discriminant and racist towards the migrants of Australia. Knowing that 90 per cent of the licence holders are migrants the government preyed on us, the vulnerable Australians and took action on the reforms that took our licences and livelihoods away.

Some of my fellow migrants when they first arrived here in Australia went to Shepparton and handpicked the fruit. Eventually they purchased land and became landowners. Some of my fellow migrants went to QLD and cut the sugar cane and also purchased land. Some ventured into Myrtleford to pick the tobacco and also purchased land. We migrants of the 50s came to Australia, we integrated well, we got a job, we worked very hard, we made many sacrifices, so we could purchase our own land, our home. We bought ourselves a job by buying a taxi licence. We followed all the rules, contributed to the community and many charitable organisations and after 60 years of hard work invested in the taxi business and in our retirement years too, the government took away our livelihoods and stole our business we built up with sweat, and we are now left with nothing to show for the last 60 years of work. They preyed on us vulnerable and elderly migrants not because we did anything wrong but because they could prey on us. We need to make a stand and let them know they cannot get away with it. We lived our lives with dignity, respect, hard work and integrity. The government responded by being undignified, disrespectful and dishonest to us. Their behaviour is corrupt, and they must not get away with it. We are now responding back to them, to get back what is rightfully ours, 60 years of hard work invested in the taxi business.

The licence that were sold to the migrants in 1951, has been a valuable licence and held similar value of house property up until 15 years ago. The property market started to rapidly climb 15 years ago, the value of the licence was rising too, but not at the same rate.

Many years ago, I was with a taxi associate in Spencer Street and he owned a taxi licence and owned a home three doors from where I live. He was struggling financially and approached me if I wanted to buy either his house or taxi licence as at the time they were both similarly valued.

I decided to purchase his taxi licence and not the house. I purchased his taxi licence for \$12,000 pounds at the time and his house was sold at auction for approximately \$12, 000 pounds also.

Today, the house is now worth over 1.8 million dollars and the licence that I purchased from him is worth nothing because of these reforms.

Out of all the taxi licence holders, 90 per cent are migrants. The government knew this and so preyed on the hard-working Australians who built up this country. They knew they could destroy us and get away with it because we are vulnerable and humble Australians. We need to send a unified message that they cannot get away with this and that there are consequences to their corruptive behaviour.

I am still working at 86 years old but there is no real amount of money that can compensate for the emotional and mental suffering I endure every day. I am embarrassed by how the politicians treated us and discarded us like rubbish.

Until the yellow cabs are still on the road I will keep operating. I will not buy another capital if I cannot serve it. We migrants were a great asset to this county. The reform had to come but not by destroying the lives of hard-working migrants, who worked over 60 years to build up an asset. All that hard work of blood sweat and tears and sacrifice

over 60 years in the taxi industry is worth nothing today. I used to operate 11 licences, I now operate 6 and I am losing money on these every day.

My two daughters used to work for me in the office, now only one daughter works for me part time as there is not enough work for the two of them. When the reforms came into place it decimated our family business and future. I wanted my grandchildren to inherit my business, but the business is no longer profitable and losing money since the reforms came into place.

Moving forward things can be improved by capping the number of CPV's so everyone can get a fair days pay for a fair days work and reinstate a market value for the taxi licence, if not pay back the market value prior the reforms to the licence holders.

The migrant of the 50s came to this country under White Policy and we were classified as criminals and treated like criminals by the government and bureaucracy. Sixty years on, not much has changed as we are still being treated this way.

Whoever in the government initiated these reforms, were paid a lot of money by the multinational companies to destroy the taxi business. It was well orchestrated and we in the taxi business were the innocent victims.

I wish to remind that politician Professor Fells knew what he was doing as he was one of the Directors of a ride share company globally. Professor Fells corruptly orchestrated it to bring ride share into Australia and was financially reimbursed for this. I know you need competition, but it should have been on an equal playing field and it should have been honest and not corrupt or illegal as it was.

The knowledge test was executed by the bureaucracy and regulators to break down the taxi business to allow ride share in.

A lot of people want me to write a book to expose the corruption of politics that I have witnessed and painfully been a recipient of. I am a hardworking and proud Australian and I have seen a lot of families ruined financially, mentally and emotionally because of these reforms. Some are tragically not even here today as they could not recover from their loss.

I am a proud Australian citizen. I like this country and worked very hard for what I got and that we the migrants of the 50s integrated seamlessly in this country. Out of the 90 per cent migrant licence holders, the majority are now on the pension because of these reforms. Some lost their homes, some got divorces and some, five people that we know committed suicide because of the financial and emotional ruin they could not recover from.

Many families have been ruined by these reforms and the government has pure blood on their hands. It is not just the financial loss to be compensated, it is the emotional and mental suffering that followed as a result.

We must take action and take back what is rightfully ours, i.e. our livelihoods and 60 years of hard work we invested in blood, sweat and tears and the government took from us what was not theirs to take.

It's time to make a collective stand, so they cannot do this again to other hard working, vulnerable and honest Australian citizens. We collectively stand for integrity, honesty, hard working Australians and most importantly the truth. We were robbed by the government reforms and we now demand justice.

Please feel free to contact me via email at anytime via my daughter in laws email address which is

Should you wish to contact me, please advise via email and I will contact you ASAP.

Many Thanks

Kind Regards,

Leo Mauro (Diulio)

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