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22nd May 2019

The Secretary
Legislative Council
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House Spring St
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

INQUIRY INTO THE COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLE INDUSTRY ACT 2017 REFORMS

AS A VICTIM OF THE ANDREWS GOVERNMENT AND THEIR ACTION I AM HAPPY FOR YOU TO PUBLISH MY STORY

Please accept this submission to the Parliamentary Taxi Inquiry. My story is as follows –

- My wife and I purchased 1 Licence around 1992 for approximately \$120K
- We saw this as lucrative income and as we were focused on being self funded retirees, we proceeded to purchasing our 2nd Licence in around 2003 for \$340K.

We did this after the Honourable Jeff Kennett had cleaned up and regulated the Taxi Industry in a way that was sustainable. The Licenses also traded on the Bendigo Stock Exchange at the time so of course, we felt Safe in investing further as we did not want to be a burden on the public welfare system.

I was a very proud Taxi Driver for the best part of 25 years. My cabs were clean and I was very honoured and very proud to be that Friendly Taxi Driver who worked hard.

My wife also worked very hard as a seamstress so that we could pay out our Taxi Licence loans, which we had borrowed based on 100% security against the Licences.

My wife and I were like ships in the night working and striving to be debt free and self funded retirees. And all for Daniel Andrews with the stroke of a pen to come and totally wipe us out.

As with many hundreds of Taxi License Owners and Drivers, in 2014 we attended a Taxi Industry meeting in Huntingdale whereby Daniel Andrews, whilst pretending to care and even went so far as holding babies, faced the entire Industry and encouraged us to vote for him as he promised that he would look after us in the Taxi and Hire Car Industry as he said he came from a Small Business Family and understood what we were going through. He even went so far as to say that we were a very strong presence in the community and required as a service. WHAT A LIAR.

How can he look us straight in the eyes and then in August 2016 announce that he was about to destroy the entire Industry. Daniel Andrews and Jacinta Allan's actions has sent my wife to unbelievable emotional health issues.

I am now 73 years of age and looking for some work in order to help with the loss of our income. My wife constantly is in tears and an absolute emotional wreck.

We have lost everything. We have lost our assets and we have lost our income. We are left with NIL income and NIL assets which were declared property by the High Court and NIL superannuation. How is this fair.

The Andrews Labor government paid transition (not compensation) of \$100,000 per licence for the first licence and \$50,000 each per licence for three subsequent licences to a maximum of \$250,000 and a \$1 levy per trip was raised, to cover transition cost. Like everyone, I too am asking what my wife and I were supposed to be transitioning to?

How did the 1st Licence differ from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th and what happened to the rest.... Someone in their department obviously cannot use a calculator.

The 'fairness fund' or as described the "UNFAIRNESS FUND" was established to support the many cases of severe hardship.

I had attended the Fairness Fund information session that Marnie Williams and KPMG held. But from this debacle of a session, we left and did not apply based on their constant spruiking of "NO CRITERIA AND NO APPEAL"

We left this session absolutely heartbroken, confused and totally bewildered. As a result, we did not apply. How can you apply for what you don't know. Also they kept saying that we would need to pay our Accountants to prepare the paperwork. So more money out of us to what get nothing????

The severe health destruction this has caused to myself and my wife is indescribable.

Both my wife and I are on medication due to the ill health this has caused us both.

We have every right to demand our money back.

As many are also saying, the Andrews Government bought out all the houses for East West Link and did nothing and now even knocking back the \$4Billion from Federal Government, he obviously does not need the money so I suggest that he accepts this \$4Billion and pays out all the Taxi & Hire Car Industry in Victoria that he destroyed. What about the Fisheries Licences they paid top dollar for.... Why the difference with our Industry. Makes No sense.

Please please please fight for us. Get back what is OURs

Kind regards

Con & Zoe Galanis