

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

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23 May 2019

I came to Australia in 1970 from Greece. I worked hard for my livelihood at three jobs seven days a week. I am now 72 years of age and feel betrayed for the sacrifices I have made. The perpetual taxi licences I worked hard for had been taken from me.

I worked long hours and sacrificed time away from my young children to secure a better future. I sold a property I once had to invest in a government regulated taxi industry. I never thought that it was ever possible to have this taken from me.

The perpetual (which means forever) taxi licences were trading on the Bendigo Stock Exchange so of course, this gave us great comfort that our investment for our future would be safe. But we were fooled as the Victorian State Labor Government thought otherwise.

My dream was for both my wife and I to work extremely hard, we borrowed against our Licences in order to purchase these. We worked with the aim of paying these off and retiring to enjoy our golden years.

At 72 years of age, I now have to continue working to make up the shortfall of the income that was taken from me. This has caused me to become depressed and very angry most of the time. My health has suffered as a result of the Government's actions as a result I have to take medication at night to sleep. At my age having to work is a difficult thing for me to do. My wife is also suffering from anxiety and depression because of the way we have been treated. We both have worked hard so not to rely on a pension. I feel embarrassed and ashamed for being treated like a second class citizen. This has caused a massive strain on our relationship and we argue all the time.

I tried to learn about the fairness fund and I could not get information about what to do. This caused me a significant amount of stress and felt that this was another blow on top of having my assets taken away. I never applied for the Fairness Fund as I felt that it would be impossible to receive any assistance.

I am upset and angry at politicians who get paid so much and yet have the power to take away peoples assets with no consideration to the destruction they have caused and the debt they have left me in.

The Government has treated us immorally and absolutely inhumane.

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