

From: [REDACTED]
To: [taxiinquiry](#)
Subject: Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Commercial Passenger Vehicle reforms in Victoria
Date: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:49:12 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Argyris Angelopoulos of [REDACTED]. I am writing regarding the recent changes to the taxi industry and how they have affected my family and myself.

I first begun working as a taxi driver in 1992, I had just moved to Australia with my wife who was 6 months pregnant at the time. To secure work for myself and have a means to support my upcoming family, I took a loan out to purchase my first taxi licence at \$135,000, interest rates were over 10% at the time. I worked long hours to make repayments on this investment and pay my bills. In the process I sacrificed a lot of valuable time with my loved ones that I will never be able to get back.

In 1996, my wife gave birth to my second child who had a congenital disability. Due to the nature of his disability he required a number of operations, hospital admissions and doctors' appointments. I was required to work harder and even longer hours to support him through the process. It was a very difficult time for me, I felt burnt out and overworked, but I persisted because I believed that everything would be easier for me once I had paid off my taxi license.

In 2008, I purchased my second taxi license at \$475,000. I wanted to secure a source of income for my retirement, as I acknowledged that I did not have a superannuation like most. I also wanted to provide my second child with a source of financial support as his disability would make it difficult for him to work in the future. I had faith and trust in the taxi industry as I had invested most of my working life into it.

When Uber started operating in Australia, I felt that I was let down by the system. I had played by the rules of the taxi industry and had nothing to show for it except a large bank debt. When the government made the decision to abolish taxi licences to make way for Uber, they abolished my hope for retirement and support for my family. My many years of 16-18 hour long shifts in the taxi, my time away from family and friends had been deemed futile. The small sum of money that I was paid by the government for my losses went straight into the loan for my second taxi license and I've been left with nothing.

This whole process has had a significant impact on my family and I. Both my wife and I have become severely depressed as a result of the changes to the taxi industry. We have no work and no source of income; and there doesn't seem to be any way of addressing this. Due to our age and lack of experience in any other field, we don't stand a chance as an employee in any other workforce. We feel abandoned. I can't go back to the transport industry because it makes me physically and emotionally sick as it reminds me of all the difficult and pointless hours of work I had put into it. I have struggled to understand how the government would allow this to happen to us.

I want to be given back what I'm owed. I want my money, my time and my future back.