



The Secretary
Legislative Council
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House Spring St
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[Via email - taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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Please Note: I am OK for this submission to be made public but I do **NOT** want my name identified.

INQUIRY INTO THE COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLE INDUSTRY ACT 2017 REFORMS

I have a tertiary degree and diploma, come from a background of migrants who have worked 2-3 jobs at a time in this country, to make a good life for themselves and their family and to be financially independent. I worked for over 18 years in a big corporation, working long hours and weekends. In 2003, I invested in a Taxi Licence which I purchased for \$320K, with a bank loan. The monthly rental I received, obtained went towards paying the loan off.

I don't believe I've had an easy life and I certainly have not been handed things on a silver platter. I have worked hard and been lucky to have some family support. I do suffer from severe Depression and Anxiety. I married late in life due to focusing on my career and decided once I was made redundant it was time to focus on my health and my family. My sister, who was also my next-door neighbour and my best friend, was diagnosed with Leukaemia and on my last day of work (due to redundancy), she passed away.

Through much struggle and perseverance, I was blessed with a son. My husband has 3 children from his previous marriage and we now have a grandson. Although we no longer pay child support, we still offer them financial assistance when and where we can.

My son, now 7 years old was diagnosed with ASD. The process of having him diagnosed was done privately at a cost of over \$8K. Although I am no longer employed, I spend many hours taking my son to therapy, working and updating his plan and assisting at his school. My husband is the sole income earner for our family and suffice it to say, at the age of 49, he no longer brings in the same amount he did 10 years ago. In conjunction with making loan repayments, the rental I received from my taxi licence was used to pay for my son's private education at a Grammar school, which after much searching, has proven to be the best school suited to his needs.

In 2014, my husband and I took a loan out in our Self-Managed Super Fund and purchased a taxi licence for \$300k.

When Uber started operating illegally, the annual rental we were getting dropped from \$30K per licence down to \$18K p.a. per licence with some months we were not getting paid any rent by the leasers and we had no recourse for obtaining what we were owed.

In October 2017, the Victorian Government compulsory ceased our two assets that we purchased for \$620K and as a form of compensation paid us \$200K for them. We still owed money on the loans that we took out to purchase these taxi licences. In the last year or so alone, we have had to cash in \$20,000 plus worth of shares, borrow money off my parents and use \$6000 of my Child's savings, just to get by. This has added considerable stress and anxiety to our already stressful lives. A detailed application to the Fairness Fund resulted in nothing! Thankfully we aren't bankrupt, but we are only **JUST** getting by, living week by week on my husband's salary, with absolutely no disposable income for emergencies let alone luxuries. Now, at the age of 50, I need to go back to work in order to afford to pay my son's school and sports fees and to contribute to our household's constantly increasing living expenses.

It is incomprehensible that a government that promised us so much (see below) can so underhandedly and unfairly treat us this way. After all, the majority affected were not rich people being greedy. We are hardworking, rule abiding citizens that just wanted to lead a decent, middle class life, for ourselves and our families.

Regards

