

The Secretary
Legislative Council
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House Spring St
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
[Via email - taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:taxiinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au)

14th June 2019

NB: 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 am nearly 81 years of age and migrated to Australia from Greece at the age of 18, alone with no support system but determined to make a better life for myself. I brought my parents and sister to Australia and supported them also. I married here, had three children and now three grandsons. In the past 63 years, my wife and I have never received any support from the government. We have worked hard, often working two to three jobs in a day.

It goes without saying that our life hasn't been easy, but we worked hard, determined for our children to live better and easier lives. We have endured suffering, discrimination and loss (our eldest daughter passed away at age 47) but we persevered. Now at retirement age, I suffer with Parkinson's Disease and Anxiety, my wife suffers with major Depression and Anxiety and limited mobility, as she has undergone extensive surgeries e.g. hip replacement, knee and thumb surgeries yet we do not receive a pension as we are living off our Self-Managed Superannuation Fund and investments that we have worked hard to purchase.

By taking out bank loans, we invested into the Taxi Industry as follows:

- Purchased a Taxi Licence in 2003 for \$315K
- Purchased a Taxi Licence in 2005 for \$333K
- Purchased a Taxi Licence in 2011 for \$500K
- Total investment \$1.148M

With the introduction of the compensation package, the Victorian Government compulsorily acquired our three taxi licenses for \$250k, resulting in a **net loss of \$898,000**. This has been further exasperated by the loss of our monthly lease payments as these assets were seized and for which our retirement and general living conditions have been substantially hampered. All of our years of work and dedication for a self funded retirement have been shattered and destroyed. Not exactly a fair deal! An application to the Fairness Fund also resulted in ZERO dollars. More like the Unfairness Fund!

What this government did to us is incomprehensible. The adverse effects it has had on our lifestyle and health is severe. The stress we have been under put bluntly, is killing us. How can a government that promised us hard working citizens so much can so underhandedly and unfairly treat us this way?

It is very reminiscent of a time in my childhood, I clearly and vividly remember when I was 3 years old, the Germans coming and seizing my parent's home. We had to evacuate our home having nowhere to go, whilst they took over residence in our home. Now at age 81 after having supported us without any government assistance in the form of a Pension and still paying taxes every year, your Government has seized our assets! As far as I'm aware, this is not a Socialist or Communist government and yet their treatment of us is! We never lived an excessive lifestyle and although we may not now be destitute, we have been impacted and more importantly we have been robbed of our hard work by our own government.

Regards