

Nicholas Gramatakos
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20TH 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

I write to you in the capacity of a son who has watched his mother deteriorate both financially and emotionally following the Andrews Government's harsh and cruel actions with the revocation of the Perpetual Taxi Licences on the 9th October 2017.

My mother [REDACTED], was a single mother who cared for myself and my sister since 1995 when my father had left home.

My mum was left behind as a single parent who for many years worked 2 to 3 jobs at any given time in order to ensure that my sister, [REDACTED] and I never went without. Her aim was to ensure that we were financially well looked after and wanted to make sure we never ever went without and that we were never put in a difficult position whereby we felt different to our school friends who had both parents at home.

As my mum worked 2 to 3 different jobs, this meant she would work her full time job, pick both myself and my sister up, ensure we were both fed and would leave my sister to look after me whilst mum went from one place to another.

This unfortunate normal life took place for many years as mum wanted to do the right thing by us but also by the public by never having to become dependent on welfare.

Mum had been told about the Perpetual Taxi Licences and how these were encouraged as a means to securing a sustainable and viable superannuation option. Mum looked into this investment quite thoroughly and what gave mum peace of mind was the fact that these Perpetual Taxi Licences had traded on the Bendigo Stock Exchange. Of course, this in itself said a lot.

To mum's credit, she went ahead and purchased the first one. She applied and was granted a 100% loan by the Bank using the Taxi Licence as 100% security. Mum was ever so proud because she was able to foresee that our financial future was looking positive and she did this alone of her own back.

A few years later, mum proceeded to purchasing her 2nd and then her 3rd Perpetual Taxi Licences. Again through the same process, she borrowed and combined all 3 Licences under the one large loan. Whilst the loan was substantial, the monthly income generated from the Assignments was servicing the loan and in fact, was even leaving some savings for mum, which she used for myself and my sister.

On the 26th August 2016 I recall my mother had called me and was crying unconsolably following the announcement of the planned revocation by the Andrews Government that would see her hard and tiring work just go down the drain.

I remember her saying that following the announcement, she went on the day and met with Jacinta Allan (Transport Minister) Steve Dimopoulos, Nick Staikos and Ben Carroll (Members of the Labor Parliament) mum said she cried her heart out and begged Jacinta Allan to reconsider what damage she was about to do, yet Jacinta Allan was stone cold with no emotion. Why???? Because it wasn't affecting her and her family.

And so the fighting journey began and still continues.

Mum was told that they were going to be given the most generous package ever....

Well the supposed most generous package consisted of -

- The Andrews Labor government paid a DISMAL 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. We are still trying to work out what my mum is supposed to be transitioning to other than financial ruin.

How did they come up with this value and modelling. Which Treasurer felt this was a very generous package??? How is it they felt that the 1st licence had a different value to the 2nd, 3rd & 4th and that any preceding had NO value. Please bear in mind that ALL Perpetual Taxi Licences all had the exact same monthly assignment fees.

This amount that the Andrews Government paid out falls very short of where it should have been. My mum is left with a large legacy debt and that is NOT FAIR when all she did is the right thing.

- The 'fairness fund' or as it is described as the "UNFAIRNESS FUND" was established to support the many cases of severe hardship. The process and application of this Unfairness Fund was almost like the last nail on my mother's coffin. The humiliation endured is indescribable. This Government should be ashamed of the Inhumane treatment they have provided. Mum felt BULLIED and HARRASSED by the Administrators who made her feel worthless and disabled. I use the word disabled because she had NO say in what was nothing short of WIPING out her hard word and making decisions for her without her say.

Mum is still suffering the cause and effect of this Government and in fact, the way I see it had she been treated like this by an employer, she would have been entitled to an enormous amount of personal injuries due to the stress this has caused. The Andrews Government is very much responsible for this. Where are the human rights.

I ask and I seek that the Andrews Government pays back my mother for what is rightfully her. She is not asking for anything beyond what belongs to her, what she worked for. That is all.

In closing I wish to refer to a statement which the Transport Minister Jacinta Allan's made during the reforms -

"NO VICTORIANS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND".

What a hypocrite

Your sincerely

Nicholas Gramatakos