

The Secretary  
 Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
 Parliament House, Spring Street  
 East Melbourne Vic 3002

29 May 2019

### **Submission to Parliamentary Tax Inquiry**

**Request to de-identify information: name/s and addresses are not to be published but this tragic and true story can be made public.**

My father was an 88 year old man in 2016, (name undisclosed for privacy reasons) who paid all of his taxes and bills and was a responsible loyal citizen. He worked very hard all his life after migrating to Australia, and became financially independent due to his efforts. In his final years of life he unfortunately experienced having all of his assets taken from him, during Daniel Andrew's term in the Labour government of Victoria.

My father and his children, whom he raised, educated, loved and planned to secure their future, have also been disadvantaged due to the introduction of the taxi licence reforms.

My father and mother, (now both deceased) owned four taxi licences. They both were involved and in the industry since 1988.

At the time of the taxi reforms my father was residing in a nursing home in **high** care, due to various health issues such as dementia and diabetic and other problems. His care was severely jeopardized because he could **not**:-

- raise the funds to pay for his nursing fees due to the taxi lessees not honouring their agreements or attempting to reduce monthly repayment during the Taxi Licence Agreement term. An outstanding debt of approximately \$7500 has still not been paid by one lessee and the legal fees of \$2500 to recoup taxi lessee debts are further losses.
- pay out his taxi loan of \$45,000. His children, two of which were unemployed due to health reasons, pooled in as much as they could of their life savings, which they were reliant on for their own personal use. In fact, his children had to refinance a loan against their own property
- pay for his nursing care accommodation as his income was taken from him
- meet the annual increasing nursing accommodation fees
- he was unable to sell his taxi licence as they were valued at zero, to pay for his \$300K bond in the nursing home. Because of this he was further penalized and had to **pay a higher nursing fee.**
- believe that at the time of application for a part pension and assistance with his prescription drugs from Government the Commonwealth Tax Office, valued his assets as being over \$800K, while the state government denied recognising his taxi licences as an asset and valued them at zero. He therefore never became eligible to receive a part-pension due to the two Governments differing interpretation of taxi licence asset
- access his self-funded pension he worked to accumulate over 30 years as it was destroyed by the state legislative changes

His children, and other beneficiaries and for future generation, are also affected as their inherited assets were taken from them as was their perpetual licence income stream. In addition, his children struggled each month to pay his nursing accommodation fees of \$3.5K+.

One of his siblings put in an application for the fairness fund. After approximately 8 months our father was allocated \$50K. The amount did not even pay for one year's nursing accommodation fee. No explanation was given as to why the amount was so small, nor why other siblings who applied to the Fairness fund were refused.

My father passed away when he was 90 years old on 24 July 2018 with debts to the nursing home of up to \$30K and other accounts owing.

This was a result of the callous, short-sighted, destructive, weak and in-competent State government who were unable to curtail an illegal foreign owned company. To date they still have not done anything to rectify the damage they have caused for generations.

Regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.