

From: [REDACTED]
To: [taxiinquiry](#)
Subject: My story
Date: Monday, 3 June 2019 2:49:27 AM

Hi there

I started driving hire cars ie VHA registered cars at a very young age I was about 22 at the time was lucky enough not to drive taxis not that that's a bad thing but when you consider the risks involved with passengers you don't know I preferred and as said lucky enough to start with Hire cars

I first started driving for a well organised individual who guided me to learn the best service we as hire car drivers can provide a great service with clean cars (always road safe) clean nice cars and I really enjoyed it.

After about 6 months a opportunity came up that someone was selling there established business.

I didn't have the backing from my own family even though my father had being a taxi driver since the mid 70's and was overseas and wasn't able to support me

I was newly married a trying to get somewhere in life as we all do

My wife and her family showed there house as a security as they could see how much I wanted to run my own business

Thanks to there help I was able to purchase the business but back then the laws as always was different I.e the car had to be a brand new Holden statesman/ brand new fairlane or if you could you could have put on a one year old caprice or Ltd or of course European car which had to meet the wheelbase requirement

Unfortunately the laws have changed as we all know now you can even put on a Holden kingswood :))

I bored over \$ 120000.00 to run my own business it was a lot of money back then you could buy a house but I said with hard work I can pay this and hopefully buy a house one

As the years progressed a lot of new faces where coming into to our industry touting was a problem even back then not a bad as it is now but we still had good business

I put on my second car and it was all fine

But every 5 years we had to change cars as the VTD requirements was that unless it was a Caprice / Ltd / European car

So before you knew it my debt was growing but my business was also

Fast forwarding the we had these cowboys with there pack come into our industry UBER yep a pack of cowboys with lots off cash to pay the right politicians to operate illegally while us hire car drivers did everything by the book and still do they may be some individuals that may not but I have no business with them

I was bought up to always obey the law be nice do the right thing

Only if our elderly knew when you do the right thing it takes away your hard earned business away like honestly we are just drivers yeah that just the way they look at us with no consideration that we are human as much as they are but just because they can and did these politicians and UBER ruined our life's and I was left with a \$260000.00 debt to my name and nothing to show for it

When the fairness fund was introduced I was going through a tough time besides thinking what the future holds no one knows but my father in-law has fallen sick while in holidays overseas then long story short had to send my wife so she can say her good byes while I was trying to look after my two young boys and still run a business wasn't easy but I managed

By the time I had remembered to apply for the fairness fund there application date had being finalised I wrote them a email explaining my situation but they didn't have any care factor

Rang the ombudsman they said they will look into it but no success

I'm sure there is so many hearts that are broken and minds that are mentally depressed due to the industry made to fall apart

I never personally said no to Uber as long as they go through the right courses police checks and they pay a licence fee

Just a level play field I think that's what we all wanted but at the end we just got shafted nicely

Don't think Uber will ever leave this country but for the pain and suffering they have caused they should be charged and and held accountable for there actions

Money isn't everything but everything is money

It's is 230am and I'm just sitting outside writing this email why as I don't have any jobs in the morning

Normally Monday mornings between 4-10am I would have close to 15-20 bookings but now hardly any which is very upsetting from being a very successful business owner which I still believe regardless of what has happen I am still successful maybe not in business thanks to Uber but as being a a non trusting person to this government so they have taught us all a very bad lesson don't trust the system as it only looks out for there own that has deep pockets

After doing this job for nearly 20 years it's very hard to get motivated to go out there and try something new

Life is to short it's only a breath and a heart beat once that stops you stop but all these scum bags keep spreading worse than germs

Hopefully if my story can help the thousands that have being effected that will be my biggest success

God bless

A lot more to say but hope sometimes runs out but I still have alittle hope left

Thank You

Kind Regards

Onur Koken

***MELBOURNE'S CORPORATE
& PERSONAL HIRE CARS***

