

**ADEQUACY OF THE REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM
HOLIDAY LETTING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 28/10/2015

Partially Confidential

My name is [REDACTED] I have lived in Sydney all my life. At the age of 26 I was diagnosed with Cancer and spent 8 months in hospital undergoing treatment. Due to the rareness of my illness, the cost of my treatment was high. Treatment costs, coupled with the fact i had to take unpaid leave from work meant that the financial toll on myself and my family who supported me during this time was challenging.

After starting work again I moved back out of home. Over time my partner and I started renting out our apartment for home stays on gumtree to help cover some of our financial costs. After paying off my hospital debts and getting slowly back into the full swing of work we bought our first property in 2010 with a deposit we saved through the help of some of our home stays.

With the arrival of Airbnb we continued to rent out our new apartment to help cover the mortgage costs. Airbnb totally changed the way we did our home stays, it created verified user profiles and an account history of reviews so guest and host could rate each other and give feedback to ensure the quality of the stay and a feeling of safety for both guest and host.

With Airbnb we are constantly amazed at the quality of guests and the gratitude they would show to us as hosts. Many guests comment to us that Airbnb enables them to travel to places they had not been before and stay for longer.

After 7 years of home stays we have successfully hosted over 100 guest with us in Sydney. During this time we have never had any issues with our guest who have consisted of artists, university professions, scientist, documentary filmmakers, hospital workers, charity volunteers and holiday makers.

Through Airbnb we have made many new friends and have become much more involved in our community. Hosting guests in your home means you have to know your local community. We recommend local business, restaurants and attractions and have become advocates of the local sustainability and creative arts movements in our community.

Please support the right for people to take control of their own lives and help create beautiful welcoming communities that are connected to the world.