

**Submission  
No 50**

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

**Name:** Ms Catherine Di Girolamo  
**Date Received:** 30/10/2015

In 2014 my parents retired and planned a one year holiday back home in Sicily Italy. It was a great opportunity to visit them and spend time together in their home land, however a mortgage with all its expenses made it very difficult financially to leave. So I explored the option of home sharing through Air bnb.

The process was so easy, once images were uploaded and I was verified, I was ready to receive guests and set a price that would cover the costs of running my home whilst I was away from my work in Sydney.

The kind of guests that I've attracted have been, retirees from interstate visiting their grandchildren in the area of Mosman, couples going to weddings in the local area needing a place close by and parents visiting their children whilst attending university graduations.

I'm very house proud and whilst it was a challenge to leave my place open to total strangers Air BNB offer a great platform for trust. With a great insurance policy and resolution process should something go wrong I felt secure inviting guests into my home.

Since the trip away I have chosen to continue with Air BNB as it really does help a single woman such as myself gain a passive income. The stress of strata, mortgage and bills as well as enjoying a social lifestyle in Sydney has taken away the STRESS of making ends meet. I am also about to embark on a Kiva fellowship in San Francisco which is a 4 month self funded volunteer position and air bnb will ensure that my financials are in place.

To add to this the extra income has helped me upgrade my apartment by installing new sound proof windows and purchase new furniture for my home.

I love my experience with Air bnb as it supports me live my life the way I want, I love providing a service to others who appreciate the quality I provide for my community. It also gives me the opportunity to meet great people and trust in humanity in a way that dissolves fear which is replaced with trust and service.