

**INQUIRY INTO OPERATION OF THE POINT TO POINT
TRANSPORT (TAXIS AND HIRE VEHICLES) ACT 2016**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 May 2020

Partially
Confidential

Good Morning, I have been a Taxi Operator/Driver for 30 years. I have always considered the passengers to be number 1 - to the end I have business insurance, workers comp insurance, a very expensive green slip for the Taxi and was an authorised operator with the relevant licences and authorities.

My business has deteriorated over the last five years due to the overseas entities that were allowed to enter and flood the marketplace with just anyone willing to drive their own vehicle. They have: No business insurance. No workers comp. No huge business expense that I have had to adhere to according to legislation and tax office rules and regulations. Their pathway was easy - just hop in the car and drive! Meanwhile, I pay exorbitant monthly fees, must be regulated in the matter of fares to be charged, and generally be governed in every aspect of my work.

The Taxi was always going to be my superannuation when I retired but this is no longer the case.

My income is down. My expenses are the same. I no longer have drivers. What is the solution? We must have an even 'playing' field.

My personal opinion is that the Government buys back all plates for a nominal fee - say \$100,000 each. Then re-sell them to anyone for \$10,000. The solution means anyone who wants to drive can; everyone is working under the same conditions; profits stay in Australia and the Government has some say in the way the taxi's operate. At this small purchase fee all current drivers will want to buy their own plate. The Government will not be out of pocket at all.

Thank you.