

**Submission  
No 49**

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

**Name:** Mr Michael Ptolemy

**Date Received:** 26 May 2020

---

**RESPONSE TO: Inquiry into the Operation of the Point To Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016.**

I am writing regarding the ABSOLUTE INEQUITY of the payouts in the NSW governments taxi Industry hardship provisions. Some lucky (and deserving) people who have owned their cab for decades, have rental properties etc got over \$100,000 and yet others who are in dire fiscal circumstances got nothing. The lack of transparency in the scheme is beyond poor and the ability to appeal limited.

My main issue is that I personally feel that with the questionable assistance provisions I could well be punished for my fiscally responsible actions and years of work without pay as compared to others who may have gambled or irresponsibly used their income for purposes other than providing for their retirement. I would like you to read about my circumstances as an example.

I am the sole director of Dreamline Pty Ltd., am 68 years old and have been planning for my self-funded retirement for decades. Unskilled in any profession I consider this an accomplishment that could be achieved through hard work. Being self employed I have a very small superannuation fund (approx. \$150,000) and was counting on leasing the plates as part of my super plan. Since purchasing the taxi in 2007 I have worked seven days a week on my other business (rubbish removal) and together with my wife, driving the taxi. My wife and I have never drawn any payment/bailment for the hours worked including every weekend for thirteen years, so we have given up much to pay off the taxi debt in what we considered, a government regulated/guaranteed industry.

Since the introduction of Point to Point our takings are down over \$12,000 per year adding to the stress of our plates once worth \$250,000, now virtually worthless. I personally know of many plate owners who are unable to sell or lease their plates and have just put them on the shelf.

The loss of the former \$400 per week income from renting the plates has now forced me to have to work many additional years in physical labour which is of great concern as I am probably about to have shoulder reconstruction surgery. All this has lead to increased stress and my once excellent health deteriorating. I now have to take cholesterol medication for my heart health. As I am the key crucial person in my business if my health is affected the whole thing, not just the taxi part, is worthless and therefore I have nothing viable to sell.

The whole turmoil of the sudden introduction of Point to Point has caused ongoing stress both physical and mental. The financial loss to my business has been immense. Surely a more equitable payment per plate such as given to the Hire Car industry would be a more fare outcome.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. Please call me if you require further details.