

Laurence Harmer

Driver with Blue & White Taxis Gladstone

Please look into this carefully. I am nearly 50 and have chosen to driver taxis because I like it and if I keep my good health I should still be driving when I'm 70. I'm getting to the age where my employment opportunities are limited therefore this is a very good future for me.

It insults me what the media are saying about taxi drivers and that they are not telling the whole story. They should be telling the public that we are governed by rules and regulations. Where is our support for this industry, letting Uber operate will affect our future income. Even though I have not invested money by owning a licence it will still affect my future in Queensland. I think the average age of taxi drivers is somewhere between the ages of 40 to 55. So this will put a lot of pressure on the Qld government if they need to support these people if this industry dies a slow death.

The service we provide in the country areas is of a high standard because we have the personal contact with the operators, passengers and the base. We have a family culture in our centre that maybe diffusional occasionally but it is system that has been tried and tested over the years. Why destroy it?

I would not be better off under the Uber system and it would be difficult to make the same money. I do not want to work for a computer with no communication with a real person and I am sure all the other taxi drivers would say the same. No control, no set times to work and no governing body (base) to control conflicts and issues on the ranks will drop the standards we currently have.

Hopefully the reviews outcome will be a favourable outcome for all Qld drivers and operators so we can get on with our job.

I am sure if I was a licenced builder, plaster, nurse, doctor or any other licenced operator that I would not be happy if someone who was not licenced came into my industry and started operating illegally offering cheaper rates. The standards would drop and we would be back in the 1950's. Why is it any different for the taxi industry? The past years experiences has driven the current rules and regulations, please review that and leave us to do our job.

We are doing a good job. Please protect our jobs.

