

Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

#417

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Contact Number:

Position: Taxi Driver (Full-time)

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IPNRC

I have been driving taxis full-time for six years. I currently drive six days a week.

I agree with the proposal that Uber drivers and drivers of similar illegal taxi services should lose points from their licences. Fines alone clearly are not working.

The appearance of the illegal taxi services have affected my income to a point where I almost cannot survive financially. Compared to about 12 months ago, when I made about \$1,100 to \$1,200 gross for the week, my earnings are currently around \$700-\$800, to a maximum of \$900 – which is a difference of between 20% to more than 40%.

The maximum wait time for a fare, a year ago, was about 30 minutes. Presently it is not uncommon to wait about three hours for the first fare. The airport jobs which we really need to break even are becoming increasingly rarer. Some days we are lucky to even get one.

Additionally, the number of times we have to wait more than 100 minutes (centuries) between fares is increasing all the time – we are working too many centuries, and they don't look like stopping.

When I moved from India to Australia (I am now an Australian citizen), it was because I knew Australia to be a good country. India too is a good country, but there is corruption – the Government is corrupt. Uber is illegal, so how is it operating here? Now is Australia going to be like that, with the Government allowing illegal activities because it does not know how to prevent it?

The Review is also taking too long. By the middle of next year, operators won't last that long, and drivers will have stopped making enough money to even survive. There will not be an industry if something is not done to stop them now.

If Governments cannot stop the illegal companies, or do not know how to stop them, and if they have to make it legal for them to work, then they need to follow the same rules to ensure the safety of both the public and the driver. Competition needs to be on the same field.

If Uber is not stopped, we (drivers) will have to look for new jobs, or go to Centrelink. It is the same money.

Gurtekbir SINGH RANDHAWA
16/10/15