

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a 68 year old Australian with one taxi licence. I bought this taxi in 1994 so that I had a job. This has allowed me to look after my wife and six children without being a burden on the Government.

I am the sole income earner in my family.

I am gravely concerned about the growing numbers of illegal taxis being driven in Queensland. These cars are not 'rideshares', a cover being used to disguise a taxi service that takes customers from a location to a destination for a service fee. This is happening in our streets now.

During the 21 years I have been in the taxi industry, I have been forced to abide by laws and regulations set by the Queensland Government. These are expensive and compulsory:

Operator accreditation fee to Queensland Government \$165.20
Taxi service licence \$ 165.60
Taxi industry security levy \$373.95
Transport Department inspections (2 per annum) \$145.00
GST (per annum) \$1884.00
Public liability insurance \$7300.00
Taxi vehicle registration \$6754.30

These costs do not include the additional annual costs of the minimum maintenance and running of the taxi and subscription to a company – all requirements of the Queensland Government.

I ask: why do I have to do this if there is an illegal taxi service that runs and has no costs?

The Queensland Government has taken no action to stop illegal drivers and has allowed a large multinational to pay the fines they were issuing, also an illegal act.

My family and I are suffering because the Queensland Government is ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN. I am struggling financially to keep my family afloat. We are financially unable to meet mortgage repayments as my income continues to fall drastically. If the taxi licence continues to lose its value and the work available continues to be taken by illegal taxis – we will end up homeless, unemployed and financially ruined.

I am at breaking point. And my family is dealing with the fallout as my health and my mind suffers.

This Bill will be the first step in trying to give us some of our legislated rights back.

I plead with you to think of the thousands of people who are supported by the taxi industry when you make this decision.

Yours sincerely,

M. Ramzan Nasir
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