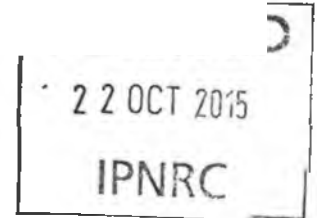


#525

Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

Name: Samuel SNAPE
Contact Number: 9
Position: Taxi Driver (Full-time)



I am a full-time taxi-driver, and I have been driving cabs for three years. I am 59 years old and I drive five day shifts a week (six up until three months ago) totalling between 75 and 80 hours a week.

I think the idea of introducing demerit points for drivers of illegal taxi services is brilliant – it is something that can actually go against the driver and is a way to punish them for doing something illegal. As we understand, Uber pay for everything and the fines they receive.

My income has decreased by 40% in the last 12 months, with the biggest drop in the last six months. It's really hurting. Our social money has gone. We are paying our bills and staying at home. That's it.

Very soon, I will have to go back to working more shifts – which will still not make me very much more money.

Before Uber appeared, I would have to wait on average about 30 minutes between jobs. Since Uber has become a real factor, now I wait about one and a half to two hours to get a job. And also the fares are smaller than before – the bigger fares are going somewhere else.

But the ones I feel really sorry for are the drivers of the night shifts – their earnings have been cut even more.

I think some business people takes cabs for short trips due to the convenience of finding available cabs. They can walk out of their buildings and there are cabs overflowing from taxi ranks everywhere.

This is a very stressful time and it's causing a lot of concern and I am lucky I have a very supportive wife. I have never been unemployed in all my life – but at this rate I'll end up on unemployment benefits, and that is something I really do not want to do. I spent years in the army in explosives. I do not have a lot of skills to find new employment easily.

I try to give my family help financially, and am helping to pay for school fees. I have four beautiful granddaughters, and I want to help them break the blue-collar rut.

This is very frustrating, and it is daunting to see the politicians say they will follow the law, but then do nothing to ensure the law is actually enforced.