

#529



Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 6:53 PM

From:

To:

Subject: Brenda's letter

Dear Sir and Madam,

I joined and then later married into my husband's family when I was 15 years of age. Seeing both my father-in-law and my husband work hard, I joined in as a team player. Since 1992 I have worked from 2 am until 7.30 pm at night to purchase my taxi business. Yes 2 jobs with 3 Sundays in 8 weeks as my days off. One could say my blood dripped from these licenses.

Westpac bank have made great profits from my hard work. But I worked believing my future would be self supporting. We never had holidays and my husband worked with a broken shoulder and at another time a broken arm. As we were self employed and if we did not work we could not make our payments. We were heavily in debt to purchase our future. We have no superannuation as our taxi licenses are to be our independence.

At 55 years of age can you imagine having our first holiday. We were stunned. Now we are 59 and 61. My children grew up with us passing like ships. Sometime tooting in the car as we drove past each other.. One adult was always with the children, but our together time was thin.

Now our health is starting to fade maybe we worked too hard?. Looking back I feel used and abused. It has all been for nothing. How can I have worked, paid my taxes, supported other families I have employed and retire with nothing. The taxi industry has braille for the blind, a lost property department for when things get lost. The cars have decal and roof hail lights to help identify, them as a taxi a safe ride home. Another industry that will feel the down turn is tourism. Because like ripples in a pond, we won't be spending any income (which we will not receive) in Queensland. All taxi owners have zipped our wallets closed on spending. And we are forced to do so in the foreseeable future. The impact of 66,000 Queenslanders who are losing their income, superannuation nest eggs and possibility of their family homes. These licenses are mortgaged against the family home. I believed in working hard setting myself up to be financially secure and not a burden on society.

UBER pays no taxes or GST in Australia. They are taking away my future and forcing me on to the pension. They are taking from the Australian purse. This if allowed to continue will lead to a lawless society, to chose to do whatever you want to do regardless of the outcome.

So where do I see my future (look to your parents). My mum has osteoporosis and is in a nursing home at the governments expense. So Plan B will have to be that. After working towards \$2 million in savings to buy my taxi business, I find myself looking at the pension. At BBQ's etc when asked my opinion... I should say to others, drink-up, holiday, party hard and don't save for your future like I did.

Thanking you for listening to my opinion.

Brenda Conohan

Brenda Conohan 19th October, 2015

