

**Submission regarding the Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform)
Amendment Bill 2017**

I started as a rideshare driver in 2014, and continued for two weeks until stopping due to the ambiguity of ride sharing under the law at that point. I have been unemployed since that time until one week ago when I recommenced delivering the now legal ride sharing services. Ride sharing has been a blessing to my wife and I. It has given us the income we require to meet our financial obligations.

The personal tragedy of losing my father in 2014 was a financial blessing, allowing my wife and I to get by despite limited income due to my being unemployed. However, that money has now been exhausted. Without the income from delivering ride share services my wife and I would be unable to meet our financial obligations.

My extended period of unemployment is due to my suffering a psychotic episode, and consequently losing my licence on medical grounds, I have only recently regained my licence for both cars and heavy ridged vehicle, however I have not been able to find stable employment, partly due to lack of opportunities and partly because of the anxious and unmotivated temperament my condition leaves me in when I sit down at a computer and attempt to write something like a job application or a submission to a committee. Ride sharing has made overcoming the problems I have seeking employment less urgent because ride sharing delivers the income my wife and I require.

Ride sharing does not only deliver a financial benefit to my wife and I however, it is also personally beneficial to me. It furnishes me with a sense of purpose, it motivates me. Essentially it helps me overcome my mental illness. I have also been quite isolated, delivering ride sharing services allows me opportunities to interact with others, leaving me with a sense of engagement with the world. This is again a positive in assisting me over come my mental illness.

The benefits of ride sharing however are not of benefit to me alone. One evening while conducting ride sharing a young women booked my services late at night after public transport services had finished. She told me she would have been stranded at university without ride share services as taxis were unaffordable. On another occasion a senior citizen was trying to get home from hospital, from the West End to Darra. A taxi ride of that length would have been unaffordable for a senior citizen. Additionally ride share drivers do not refuse short fares as often happens with other services. It has also been my experience that ride share operators, and their vehicles, are viewed as clean and hospitable.

I am aware that there is an equity issue here, that taxis and limousine operators provide a service that is valued by the community and should be delta with fairly. However I do not believe that this justifies significant new cost imposts that would be born by ride share drivers, not ride share companies. Margins in the delivery of ride share services are tight and can not bare the strain of additional costs.

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