

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: BNB sub No. 37

From: Chooks in the City

Sent: Saturday, 12 January 2019 10:08 AM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing

Subject:

Thank you for the chance to share my experience with you.

I pay the mortgage on a small villa in Midland, and pay rent to a landlord while living in Kewdale.

I have extensive education, with a degree in environmental science and a certificate for medical administration. At the age of 50 I have found it difficult to find sustained, consistent or well paid work. I do what I can to bring in funds to support myself and my teenager, without relying on the government handouts. I have done airtasker jobs, sales and cleaning jobs, plus now have after hours work (often between 4pm-midnight).

Air BNB is terrific for bringing in income to support us. The benefit is that the fee for being on the platform is taken out of the incoming guests payments and is minimal.

In the Midland area there is too many homes for rent and they remain unoccupied. I spent thousands of dollars on new floor coverings, light fixtures, repairs and then a few more thousands on furniture and bedding and kitchenware to make it a comfy AirBNB. I took the financial risks to set it up now with new furniture etc dedicated to look after others.

In this low socio-eco area (Midland... look it up) there are very very few options for accommodation for the traveller - so I provide a valuable commodity. ALSO in the area there are many business including tourism businesses, that benefit from my guests visiting them nearby.

It is work for me as I need to travel a round trip of about 45 min to launder bedding, clean it, stock it and do gardening.

So, unlike what is portrayed on the media, that it is easy money made at the expense of hotels losing out, the truth is far from this. **Societal pressures including a lack of jobs and increasing costs of living need a remedy that is entrepreneurial on part of the individual, and should be encouraged by government agencies, as in the long run it saves the government expenditure on welfare.** I could just avoid personal risk and personal effort by applying for welfare money instead like a larger percentage of people who feel the **government doesn't support or encourage financially self supportive behaviours.** I sought out AirBnB as a remedy to pay my mortgage and keep the villa from being foreclosed on. I am certain there are other struggling honest, hard working individuals who also use AirBNB income to assist in covering their living expenses too.

Yours sincerely,
Hannah Thomas