

From: [Lorili Jacobs Gmail](#)
To: [Committee, Economics & Industry Standing](#)
Subject: Home share inquiry submission
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15 December, 2018

Hello committee members,

Please accept my submission to the Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation as written below. Apologies if you receive it twice!

I think people should have the freedom to share their homes responsibly and I would welcome a simple low cost online registration process. Please consider including a special category for hosts who live in the house that they offer for home sharing.

Here is why I need Airbnb. I am 64 years old with Master of Science and a long-standing professional career in allied health and research but I cannot get work. Now that my Mum has passed away and children grown and moved out I find the connection with Airbnb guests stops me from being lonely. My husband is working full time and will continue to do so as long as health permits. We have always provided for ourselves and never received government benefits of any kind. Without hosting parts of our large house on Airbnb we could not afford the mortgage and would lose our home. We have saved all our life and built this house with ground floor bedroom to allow us to age in place and not be a burden on society or family. I think we add to the prosperity of local business by recommending the Saturday markets and my favourite eating and shopping places.

I want to make these other short comments to your terms of reference:

1. The forms and regulatory status of short-stay accommodation providers in regional and metropolitan Western Australia, including existing powers available to local government authorities.

*Please can we have a statewide low cost registration process for Airbnb hosts? I think such regulations exist in South Australia, Tasmania and maybe New South Wales.

2. The changing market and social dynamics in the short-stay accommodation sector.

*Home sharing for me is about people helping people. Yes there are those hosts who abuse the system and those guests who behave badly. Perhaps there

could be a "3 strikes and you are out" rule where hosts are responsible to ensure guests do not disturb the peaceful amenity of the neighbourhood.

* I have read about a report from Deloitte Access Economics, that says Airbnb guests are a strong force in tourism economy, with a total contribution to Western Australia's economy of \$99.7 million in 2015-16.

3. Issues in the short-stay accommodation sector, particularly associated with emerging business models utilising online booking platforms.

*Airbnb provides me with a secure online website that reaches lots of travellers just like me. I can easily display my spare space and feel safe that guests coming to my home have been well reviewed by others. I did try listing on Trip Advisor and [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) but they take a much larger portion of what the guest pays and their systems are cumbersome to use.

*I have found lots of local WA people come to stay with us when special events are on such as football or concerts.

*We also use Airbnb when needing accommodation out of Perth for a wedding or other event. Hotels are too expensive and can only be used when we go away for a special holiday.

*Please try to remember that not everyone has a workplace paying for their accommodation so hotel costs are out of reach for many of us when travelling.

4. Approaches within Australian and international jurisdictions to ensure the appropriate regulation of short-stay accommodation.

*I don't think it is fair to pay large fees to share our home. I don't think South Australia has big fees, or difficult registration/licensing system, and I understand Tasmania has a self-assessment form, required in certain circumstances, mostly for holiday homes or weekenders where the host does not reside on the premises.

In conclusion, I sincerely request the Economics and Industry Standing Committee to support home sharing in WA and introduce a statewide, low cost and simple registration system similar to South Australia, Tasmania and other places in the world that have similar relaxed way of living. "Go WA. Home of blue skies and smiles"

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information.

Kind regards
Lorili Jacobs

Perth
Sent from my iPhone 8+