

Dr David Worth
Principal Research Officer
Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation



Dear Dr David Worth/Committee,

I am writing this email in regards to the Short-Stay Accommodation (AIRBNB).

I have an apartment in Perth CBD and I am currently renting it out through AIRBNB with my daughter Senka who is currently unemployed due to poor health in recent past. In 2014 I lost my husband Hakija to cancer. My husband and I bought the apartment in 2006 as an investment property and to have something for our 2 adult children.

We have been renting the apartment though agents over the years and then my son Alen moved in and lived in it for 5 years. 1.5 years ago my son moved to Sydney. My daughter and I tried to look for a Real Estate Agent to lease out our apartment but the fees they charge are too high and how much they are asking for rent was very low and that was not going to help us to be able to cover the home loan and the bills to pay.

Previously when we used Real Estate Agents we were not satisfied with how they managed our property. There was a lot of damage done and not much compensation.

We did not know which direction to go in, so we spoke to some friends in Europe and they suggested that we should use AIRBNB. We never heard of AIRBNB before but we knew that there are people renting their property privately. We then did our research to see what is the best option for us, this is how we came to using AIRBNB.

As soon as we started using AIRBNB we immediately started doing book keeping for all guest reservations and claimed all income on TAX. We made sure that we have a verified profile on AIRBNB and therefore make sure that every guest that books with us is also verified. We are very selective on whom we allow to stay in the apartment. We like to have a piece of mind knowing that we are safe who we are allowing to stay in our apartment. My daughter manages the bookings and greets the guests because I work full time. The bookings we get and the money we receive helps us pay for the apartment loan and all the bills and that is all it covers. At the moment this is our best option. I am not sure how long my son will be in Sydney for but when he moves back to Perth and into the apartment we won't need to rely on AIRBNB for income support.

We feel that AIRBNB is a lifeline for struggling families during difficult times. At the same time having guests stay in the apartment gives them the opportunity to feel relaxed as if they are at home and enjoy staying in Perth/WA which also help boost our tourism industry and economy.

Thank you for taking your time to read my letter.

PS. I will send a hard copy as well.

Sincerely,

Amela Catak

24/01/2019