



**Frances  
Bedford**

*Independent State MP for Florey*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **UBER ANGST FOR OUR SA TAXI DRIVERS**

Frances Bedford, Independent for Florey, has been contacted by a constituent who works in the taxi industry, expressing concerns about Uber and its operation in Adelaide.

Ms Bedford said it was promising to see yesterday's news report that there are others who are questioning Uber and apps like it. "The Transport Workers Union and the Australian Workers Union are really pushing for Uber, Deliveroo and other app based companies to pay superannuation contributions, provide their driver's a minimum number of hours per shift and increase their hourly rate of pay. This seems an important step," she said.

"Out on recent street corner meetings, I've had people expressing all sorts of concerns about safety for all involved and asking if the elusive 'fair playing field' exists when taxi plate owners have enormous start-up costs. Uber drivers don't have to have the same police checks and there are no requirements for Uber drivers to have security cameras in their cars, posing safety risks for drivers and passengers alike," Ms Bedford said.

"There are also concerns that Uber cars are only insured as passenger vehicles and not as commercial hire cars and therefore do not meet the State Hire Car regulations that protect drivers and consumers. And, there are questions about compliance to Australian Hire Car standards - whether companies like Uber (that use apps) are by-passing regulations that protect both Hire Car drivers and their consumers and whether Uber drivers are paying their staff the same rates as taxi drivers."

There are cases the perceived affordable price of Uber hire is putting taxi drivers out of work and real pressure on Adelaide taxi companies. "Uber's use of surcharges at popular times of day, during events and at some points of the weekend, means they often aren't as affordable as people think, as prices go up when there is a high level of demand."

Yesterday's article (*The Advertiser*, by Kylar Louissikan, 31/1/18) estimates Uber drivers currently working a full week earn around \$18.75 an hour before expenses. "If we use the British Employments Tribunal's findings as an example, then it wouldn't seem illogical to assume this would mean the average Uber driver must be earning below the minimum wage of \$18.29.

If anyone has concerns about Uber or thoughts about more being done to make sure all commercial hire cars have the same standard of security and police checking, please contact the Florey Electorate Office on 8263 2666.

## Background Information:

Uber has been banned in Central London because of safety concerns. 'Travel for London' (TfL) didn't re-new Uber's license contract in September 2017 because they decided Uber did not take enough corporate responsibility for safety.

TfL found Uber's conduct and regulations failed to make the appropriate reports of serious criminal offences, failed to appropriately police check their drivers and believed that Uber's use of 'Grey Ball in London' software may have been blocking law enforcement and regulatory bodies from viewing the app.

In another instance in the UK, Uber was taken to an Employment Tribunal by Trade Unions GMB and IWGB. GMB claimed Uber was acting unlawfully and won on all counts. The Tribunal found that Uber drivers were only receiving £5.03 per hour (\$8.82 with today's exchange rate), after costs and expenses were taken out of their earnings. This is around £1.5 (\$2.51) under the UK's hourly minimum wage rate for adults over 21. While it might not sound like much of a loss, per week it is an under payment of \$92.87 for full time drivers.

It was also found that Uber was not paying its drivers holiday pay and wasn't giving drivers an entitlement to breaks.