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OnDemand Inquiry
Industrial Relations Victoria
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Thank you for the invitation by email on 15 September 2020 to respond to the report of the Inquiry into the Victorian On-Demand Workforce 2020.

We vehemently oppose the recommendations in the report, particularly recommendation number 6 to ‘ditch’ common law as the definer of self-employment and replace it with some unknown new definition.

We find that there is no connection between the research contained in the report and its recommendation. Consequently, we consider the report to be a ‘con job’ seeking to create a political and public relations smokescreen to achieve a predetermined agenda—namely, the effective outlawing of self-employment in Victoria.

We note that shortly after the report was released the Premier of Victoria made public statements endorsing the report. In this respect we consider that the current Victorian government has ‘declared war’ on self-employed people in Victoria. We have expressed this publicly.

We advise that to defend the right of our members and all Victorians to be self-employed we will do everything we can to oppose any implementation of the report’s recommendations. The recommendations are shameful.

For your further information we have completed an analysis of the report which is here.
<https://icau.worldsecuresystems.com/Downloads/Gig-economy/Analysis-Vic-Gig-Economy-Report-SEA-July-2020.pdf>

The overview of our analysis states the following:

We find the recommendations of the report to be highly dangerous and a direct attack upon the right of all Australians to be self-employed.

- The report effectively recommends the outlawing of self-employment in Australia. (Rec 6) It thus specifically attacks the jobs and incomes of the 2,154,000 Australians who are currently self-employed.
- Consequently we tag this report as ‘JobKiller’

Further the report’s recommendations are not supported by the research presented in the report. That is, there is a disconnect between the research and the

recommendations. In fact, the research points to the valuable contribution that self-employment and gig platforms make to society and the economy.

On the research aspects we find the following:

- a) The report provides helpful data on the gig economy in Australia.
- b) Overwhelmingly the report shows the valuable, but comparatively small, contribution that gig platforms make to the economy, society and individuals.

The reports states that:

- c) Only 0.19 per cent of the workforce use gig work for their full-time income; and
- d) Around 7 per cent of the workforce use gig platforms to earn extra income. That is, it's essentially a 'pocket money' opportunity.

However:

- e) Despite noting the positive contribution made by the gig economy, the report then 'discovers' a problem. The steps that the report uses to move from a 'positive' to a 'problem' are thin, cursory, illogical and, we say, 'manufactured'.
- f) The 'solution' to this 'problem' put forward by the report is to make self-employment illegal.

Yours sincerely,

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