

Dear Productivity Commission,

A write as a retired teacher, and later Anglican minister in Melbourne's poorest parish, Dallas-Collaroo. which surrounds the Ford works in northern Melbourne. Many men in my parish worded at Ford's (and several were disabled through industrial accidents)

The loss of the Ford works through governments' failure to support them financially (as is done in all overseas countries including Sweden) would devastate the suburbs I know. Originally unskilled workers but who have developed specific skills in the plant would probably be unable to find work, especially if they were over 45 or so.

I do not want to live in a country with no industrial manufacturing base, if only for the human cost of leaving lesser educated and less intelligent people, without a livelihood, many of whom we knew and loved in Broadmeadows - fine and worthy people. I see it as a Christian duty for a government led by a Christian with a Jesuit-trained social conscience to take this aspect seriously.

It is an issue of first-ranking importance, for a variety of economic, social and strategic reasons. To avoid its implications is short-sighted and irresponsible.

and your governmeenmt would rightly be reviled when our future history is written.

Yours sincerely,

Rev James Houston OAM

Kind Regards,

Rev, James Houston OAM