

Dear Productivity Commission,

I work for an automotive interiors supplier in Victoria, I have worked in the industry for 6 years. I have plenty of bills to pay and working in the auto industry helps me to pay these bills.

Without a job I wouldn't have much at all to be honest. Given the volume of people affected with the closure of Ford and possibly Holden it would certainly impact my ability to find a new job (which has comparable remuneration, location, etc). The closure of Ford in particular means I won't have a job in 2016 and this has set me back a number of years - it has also set me back in terms of being able to contribute to the economy, no job = no taxes = no govt. revenue!!!

In terms of Australia, it seems as if the government is not interested in Australians making anything Australian. A lot of manufacturing has already left our shores never to return which is really disappointing. If we consider Ford for example, only 8 years ago the company was thriving in Australia however with changes in tariffs and various free trade agreements the industry is slowly dying. Do we want all manufacturing overseas, why isn't the government supporting local manufacturing which employs 200k Australians each year??

I'm really disappointed the labour or liberal parties haven't supported the automotive industry. Many other countries invest a lot more money into their automotive industries than the Australian government does which astounds me. Australia is a small economy compared to say the US and how does the government expect to compete with the economic giants without a manufacturing industry??? Am I missing the point?? It just seems like not one government official who can make a difference, wants to make a difference meanwhile people like me are stuck with having to look for a job even though we have perfectly good ones at the moment!! Thanks Australian government, thanks for nothing!

Kind Regards,
Robert Hutchison

