

To whom it may concern. My name is _____ and I have been a professional tattoo artist for 28 years, I am a proud member of the Australian tattooists guild. This is my submission for the enquiry into red tape of occupational licensing.

On the _____ 2013 I lodged my application to fair trading for a operators license for _____ in _____ nsw. almost 5 years to the day I have been waiting for my license with no reply or explanation of what is happening with my application. I have called fair trading dozens of times with the same answer, that it is in the hands of nsw police. I am a hard working family man with 4 children and tattooing is my life passion. I am not a member of a motorcycle club nor have I ever been, I am certainly not a criminal. How could it possibly take this long to process my licence? During this time my wife has started her own successful _____ business which is in its fourth year. I have also apprenticed my son to become one of _____ best tattoo artists, who is now in his 5th year of tattooing. For 3 years now we have planned to move on from _____ and open a family business with tattooing and laser removal _____ first we wanted to move to Queensland and start a new life but was informed by fair trading that if I did then _____ would have to close down (I have since found out this is not true unless I withdraw my application) how could I possibly do that to my workmates, so we stayed. A year later my wife and son decided to move forward without me and have opened their combined studio in another suburb, this is a family shop that is illegal for me, their husband and father to work at!!! because the ridiculous red tape between fair trading and police. Every day I have to say goodbye to my family and go to work somewhere I _____ t want to be, this has become extremely frustrating to the point of being traumatic! I just want to work in peace with my family, I have done nothing wrong. I have given so much back to tattooing, apprenticed 8 people who have gone on to have successful careers. I deserve my license, how long can the government put someone _____ s life in hold, with no explanation and nobody to contact in the police department for an answer. I feel this is a violation of basic human rights. Every police officer I _____ ve spoken to when they come in for inspection believe this is a total waste of police resources and they should be out doing urgent police work. I believe the tattoo laws offer no value and are only hurting innocent workers. I believe the department of fair trading should be solely responsible for tattoo licensing with a simple probity check for applicants to get their license, this same amendment has been made in Queensland! Another example of red tape experienced by us is it took 3 months for my son to be granted his operators licence for his new studio when he already had been approved to hold a individual license. That's 3 months of paying rent in a premises that he couldn _____ t work out of until his license finally came. I urge the current act be urgently reviewed and amended. Please help our industry, good people are hurting.

Thank you for giving us your time in reviewing these laws, kind regards