

Good afternoon.

I just read in to-day's copy of the Herald Sun (small article on page 19, top left) that the Senate has an enquiry in to ticket scalping, yet no-one has responded.

I am not sure if the details below are of interest, but I will forward them in case they are of use.

In April last year I contacted the Football Federation of Australia, Melbourne Victory FC, Ticketek, Ebay, and the State Government (The Hon Hugh Delahunty) regarding the distribution of tickets to the Melbourne Victory v. Liverpool football match. Both Melbourne Victory member and the general public ticket allocations were sold out in minutes, with many sold tickets immediately appearing on Ebay at inflated prices.

None of the involved parties to this event - FFA, Ticketek nor Ebay - showed any interest in taking action on this computerised scalping process, leaving many football fans without tickets, as they either could not afford the higher prices or refused to pay the inflated prices which would have had them supporting the scalping process. (Melbourne Victory replied stating the match was organised by Liverpool through the FFA and they, Melbourne Victory, had little input to the ticket arrangements).

I have attached a copy of the many adverts for tickets to this game which appeared on Ebay immediately after the ticket sales closed. Please note the first entry for Silver tickets eventually sold for more than 3 times their face value. I am not sure about other ads but I am sure many were sold well above the ticket value.

As stated above, apart from the Minister for Sport & Recreation, no-one seemed to care that they were supporting scalping and therefore denying many fans the opportunity to see this one off fixture with Liverpool. All parties involved in the event were still receiving their portion of the ticket sales so seemed unconcerned and content that scalpers were making obscene profits through Ebay (and Gumtree etc).

For the record, Hugh Delahunty responded to my e-mails on this matter, and confirmed a solution is to have such events "Declared", which would make it illegal for people to sell tickets higher than their face value. While this process has to be initiated by the organisers of any event, it is apparently a simple process and would fix the scalping of tickets to sporting, music and cultural events.

Since receiving this advice from Mr Delahunty, I have e-mailed the FFA again as well as the Football Federation of Victoria, requesting they ensure organisers of events such as the Melbourne Victory v Liverpool game (and last year's Sydney v. Manchester United match which suffered the same problem) apply for their events to be "Declared". To date I have received no replies.

I hope this may be of assistance in stamping out the Ticketek - Ebay path of scalping, and am happy to answer any questions you may have, or provide any documents you think may help from those replies received.

Kind regards

Doug West