

I am writing to you today to explain our story in the hope that something can be done to stop this ever happening to any other Australian citizen.

My Husband and I were encouraged to join (formerly Qzdaq Securities) Storm Financial by an MLC advisor we had known for many years .Nancy Seymour told us we could enhance our position by placing a mortgage on our home and a Margin loan on the share portfolio we had accrued over a lot of years .When we joined 9 years ago we owned our home we owned a share portfolio with approx \$150,000 of blue chip shares .We had known about Margin loans but never came to do it ourselves but thought if an advisor who was fully licenced was in charge it would be safe .We were never told this was a high risk investment .

We were constantly at every update told this is how business makes money so it was all so convincing .If you own your home and do not have the value working for you it is like leaving it on the dining table was one of their quotes .We were also told there was so many safety parameters in place ,buffers to protect from any falls in the market .We were told if we just did nothing we would be like the majority of Australians living in retirement on the old age pension .By following their advice we would be self funded ,with enough to enjoy a comfortable retirement..

Nancy Seymour retired and we were then passed to George Cassimatis .We paid the mortgage right up until retirement but was then told it would be paid out of the cash management account .My superannuation of \$250,000 I was told was part of the Plan and had to be in the investment so I passed it over to Storm also.

In July when the share market was down ,George Cassimatis said they would have the house revalued to get the extra money invested as this is the time when money is made .We had a desire to one day buy a caravan to travel Australia ,so thought this might help with our dream .We have been closely looking at the Margin Loan statements since this debacle only to discover the July statement our spending limit was \$1.5 Million and the next one for August was \$2 million an increase of \$500,000 when the revaluation of the house only got \$80,000 ? This is something we cannot understand or explain.

Now all that we have worked for all our life as about to be gone .We have a mortgage of \$368,000 owing and our ages are 69 and 63 .My husband is not in good health but we now find we can't even afford to use the private health insurance we have had because of the gap involved, the out of pocket expenses. I have been fortunate to get a full time job with my previous employer however I have had a hip replacement that 12 months ago I was told was loosening ,I don't know how long I can continue .

We trusted and believed all we were advised to do because they were an accredited ASIC licenced securities dealer .How does ordinary working Australian citizens be left in this situation ,who can you trust if not someone the regulator has approved ? We had thought we needed a Financial planner to sort out the mess Storm has left us in .We took up an offer by Colonial First State to have them pay the first hour ,but that proved useless and the cost ended up being \$1650 to tell us the difference between renting and paying interest only on our mortgage. We were at the time in such shock,we thought we need someone else to fix it ,as Storm had always done everything. We have never set a foot inside a bank for anything pertaining to this mess.

Thank you for any assistance in changing the laws in relation to this saga.