

**From:** [Evelyn Richardson](#)  
**To:** [tourisminquiry](#)  
**Cc:** [Eliza Harris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry into the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the tourism and events sectors - 19 May 2021 - Transcript  
**Date:** Monday, 31 May 2021 3:26:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Please see below our response to the 2 matters raised by the Committee:

1. 'See it Live' vouchers could help to support Victorians afford and attend live events. This could operate similar to the *Dine & Discover NSW* vouchers, where NSW residents aged 18 and over can apply for **2 x \$25 vouchers** for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions, live music, and arts venues. These are made available in the Service NSW Mobile App and also sent via the Service NSW account email – and are valid for use at participating businesses.

The Victorian Government announced in the 2021-22 Budget that \$7.4 million will be spent on a new voucher scheme (the *CBD Dining Experiences Scheme*) to entice Melburnians and visitors to support city cafes and restaurants. Rebates of 20 per cent – from a minimum of \$10 returned to a maximum rebate of \$100 – will be available for spending on dining with the City of Melbourne.

LPA proposes a similar voucher system to help support the live entertainment industry where Victorians could register for a voucher that would enable them to claim back money spent on live events and live entertainment experiences. Reactivating live events will also increase confidence in other parts of the live entertainment eco-system and in allied industries such as hospitality, tourism, accommodation, and transport. This is particularly crucial as Victoria emerges from the current lockdown.

2. The Live Entertainment Business Interruption Fund has strong support from LPA's Members. All of our Members have been affected by the cancellation and postponement of live performance events. LPA has received extensive feedback from its Members that lost revenue, job losses and poor mental health outcomes are widespread in both the not-for-profit and commercial sectors due to business interruption caused by COVID-19.

The Federal Government is funding a \$50 million Temporary Interruption Fund (TIF) to support local film and television producers to start filming again in circumstances where new productions have been halted by insurers not providing coverage for COVID-19. To gain coverage for the TIF, production companies need to pay a fee. For productions which commence principal photography **on or prior to 30 June 2021**, the fee is calculated at 1% of the TIF coverage provided for a production.

The current lockdown in Victoria highlights yet again the critical importance of business interruption insurance for the live entertainment industry. We note the \$20 million announced on 30 May 2021 that will be allocated for supporting operators in the events industry who have incurred losses due to the current lockdown. This is welcome. However, ongoing risks of future business interruption remain which means the need for

an ongoing fund to underwrite this risk and encourage investment is critical.

The costs of business interruption, reduced capacity and potential snap lockdowns are enormous and, for an industry just starting to reactivate after a significant shut-down, increasingly unsustainable.

LPA urges this measure to be expedited as soon as possible.

Please let me know if further information is required.

Kind regards

**Evelyn Richardson**

Chief Executive



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