

Inquiry into the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Tourism and Events Sectors

Mr Simon K Patterson

Organisation Name:SKP Events

Your position or role: Director

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

The COVID19 pandemic has had an incredible impact on the Live Events industry in Victoria. Whilst SKP Events has been very fortunate to receive financial support from a range of Government initiatives, including JobKeeper and the Victorian Government's Business Support Fund, many businesses have not been so fortunate. The recovery is indeed slower than anticipated. As Government support programs wind down, the business income is not necessarily returning to "pre COVID" levels at the same rate. Many clients are still facing uncertainty in terms of confirming events given the ongoing restrictions. Other clients are also facing challenges with reduced budgets as they recover in their own industries too. For SKP Events there is already one key client who has said "we just can't afford you this year". Other clients are booking events on smaller scales and with much smaller lead times.

Outside of our own business there are also many operators in the industry who have not been eligible for Government support because of the nature of their business structure etc. I have dear friends in the Live Event industry who have not worked for 6 months!! Some have been lucky to pivot into other industries or upskill etc, however others are really struggling and have been eating into savings (including money that was planned for home deposits etc).

I implore the Victorian Government to look at every suggestion for support which could be made available to operators and individuals in the events and entertainment industry as well as our colleagues in the tourism sector. We are so intertwined and codependent, however often the smaller operators and sole traders across these areas are left in the cold!

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:



Signature:

Simon K Patterson