

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

Mrs Rebecca Williamson

Organisation Name: No Fuss Events Pty Ltd

Your position or role: CEO- Sales & Finance

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

No Fuss is a small family owned Victorian business who have been suppliers to the Major Events Industry across Australia for the past 20 years including supplying infrastructure to the Country Racing Victoria tracks as well as the likes of major stadiums such as the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Marvel Stadium and GMHBA stadium and major events such as the Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Melbourne Caravan & Camping Show and the Rip Curl Pro to name a few in Victoria and several more across the rest of Australia.

I'm sure that you're aware that as suppliers to Major Events our industry is one of the hardest hit due to the effects of COVID-19, with our regular income ceasing with the cancellation of the 2020 Australian Grand Prix and yet to recommence in any meaningful way to this day. As an industry, we are arguably in a worse position than we were in March of last year due to the restrictions imposed on our clients and the looming end to the Federal JobKeeper support. With the recent postponement of the 2021 Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Melbourne Caravan & Camping Show and the Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach being moved interstate, our buffer of income post JobKeeper moving through to surviving the winter months, where events typically hibernate in Victoria, there is real concern regarding the ongoing viability of continuing to operate. Post JobKeeper, our business will certainly have to initially cease a majority of our staff employment and without Government Assistance will potentially cease to trade.

No Fuss Event Hire are not alone in these concerns. I have attached a recent survey held by the 'Save Victorian Events' team which impacts the devastating impact that the pandemic has had on our industry. Without targeted assistance in the form of real financial support for our industry we will risk not having an industry when it is safe to host Major Events in Victoria once again. We need for the Victorian Government to actively support events to help our clients to get up and running again, and for a proper improved approval process for all types of events with workable timelines in terms of approvals and communications.

No Fuss Event Hire pride ourselves in being not only and Australian owned and operated business amongst our overseas competitors, but a Victorian owned and operated business. The Government must act now in order to keep this business within Victoria!

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [6063d7cc63cdf-Vic Event Impact Survey Results 8 2 2021.pdf](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Rebecca Williamson



Final Survey Results: The Devastating Impact on Victoria's \$10+ billion Event Industry

IMPACT ON VICTORIAN EVENT INDUSTRY COMPANIES

By companies we mean event organisers and the vast array of suppliers to Victoria's event industry such as: AV, audio, lighting, theming, expo, marquees, catering, etc...

Income from April to December 2020 was down 85%

Forecast income for January to June 2021 is down 76%

Forecast income for July to December 2021 is down 67%

(compared to the same period in pre-Covid years and excluding government support)

94% of companies are currently receiving JobKeeper

Receiving JobKeeper has enabled:

38% of companies to keep all staff on

47% of companies to keep some staff on

If JobKeeper ends in March:

43% of companies will need to let staff go

An additional 40% of companies will potentially need to close their business

So **83% of companies in Victoria's event industry will be severely affected** by the ending of JobKeeper - if it is not replaced by some other form of financial support.

IMPACT ON FREELANCERS AND CONTRACTORS

These are the highly skilled professional service providers such as producers, production managers, stage managers, technicians, risk managers, lighting designers, etc.... who play such a critical role in the planning and running of events.

Their income from April to December 2020 was down 89%

Forecast income for January to June 2021 is down 80%

Forecast income for July to December 2021 is down 67%

(compared to the same period in pre-Covid years and excluding government support)

77% have had to seek work outside of the Event Industry to survive.

69% will need to get jobs outside of the Event Industry if JobKeeper ends in March.

IMPACT ON VICTORIAN EVENT INDUSTRY WORKERS

Only 27% of people who were working full time in the Victoria's Event Industry pre-Covid are still working full time in the Event Industry.

35% of people who were working in Victoria's Event Industry pre-Covid are no longer working in the Event Industry at all.

The survey was conducted by Save Victorian Events from February 3rd to 7th with more than 360 businesses and more than 200 individuals from Victoria's Event Industry responding.

Contact: help@savevictorianevents.com.au