

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

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

To the Commission,

I am writing to communicate my knowledge of some key issues and areas of concern for the Melbourne music industry under the current stage of Covid-19 restrictions, particularly when it comes to small music venues and the musicians that rely on them.

Small music venues are a crucial part of the Victorian music industry, and the industry will collapse without them. Many venues are currently running at 30% or less capacity due to the maintenance of the 1 person per 2 square metre rule. I have been liaising with the proprietors of these venues, and almost all of them are saying they are running so far below their break-even points that they will be threatened with closure in the short or medium term. It seems as if the Victorian Government can't grasp the impact on a small (70-150 people) venue that runs on low profit margins even at the best of times. It is dire and will soon be fatal for many businesses.

These businesses hire many staff - on the hospitality side and the music side. They are also a key point of access to the industry for musicians from very diverse backgrounds and musical approaches. If these venues are threatened, the health, diversity and future business prospects of the Victorian music industry will be greatly eroded. This will have economic impacts far beyond the contributions of the venues themselves. It will also significantly devalue the artistic, cultural and social aspects that music so enriches in our society.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]