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To: tourism inquiry
Subject: Submission by Beaspoke Safety to the Inquiry into Support for the Tourism and Events Sectors

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The Impact of COVID19 on Risk and Safety in the events industry:

As a Risk and Safety Consultant specifically for the events industry for the past twenty years I have been working through many of the issues and concerns with my clients who range from music festivals, corporate and business events, marketing activations, exhibitions through to school fairs, community events, non for profit fundraisers and local government departments. During the Global Pandemic I have been assisting them to to try and help them understand the restrictions and what is allowed and to get their events, community groups and charities up and running again. It has been an incredible struggle on many levels: I have had business owners crying to me, employees asking me where they can find other work as they had been laid off, saying goodbye to many industry experts as they relocated to Queensland or WA, employers and employees begging for guidance, people wanting to do the right thing, but feeling expaseptaed that so many others events and public members were and are still not.

I've also been involved in many of the government industry roundtable discussions since mid last year and have an understanding of with what has occurred, and hasn't, and what needs to for us all to move forward into the COVIDNormal.

Key recommendations:

- As the Australian events industry has some of the worlds best practitioners, their expertise should be utilised to assist the move into the new COVIDNormal for events.
- With the many facets required for event risk and safety, outside a global pandemic, the requirements for local government permits, WorkSafe, Victorian Building Authority, Energy Safe Victoria, Liquor licensing, Streatrader, Vic Police and the like also need to be considered in conjunction with the requirements of a COVIDSafe plan and the Event Framework.
- This situation provides the industry and the Victorian Government with an opportunity to update guidance material for the industry, by the industry experts, not bureaucrats that only have a partial understanding of events (the last guidance notes through WorkSafe were printed in 2006 and was only for Major Events). Beaspoke Safety was involved in the industry roundtable discussions with WorkSafe on developing further guidance notes for the other areas of the events industry, and in particular for the small community type of events. Things were progressing but then there was a change in Government and the roundtables were disbanded. Even when the Labor government returned to power the roundtable discussions never were reconvened which was a missed opportunity.
- The Industry to be recognised as it's own industry (not pigeonholed with other industries such as Tourism or the Arts) and that all the various suppliers and contractors (who will no doubt cross over into other industries sectors) are also recognised as a vital part of the events industry and that focused resources are provided to support the entire Events Industry.

I believe my experience and industry knowledge would be invaluable in helping the Committee properly understand what has been happening within the events industry, during and prior to the Global Pandemic and the resources needed to get events happening again safely in Victoria.

Kind regards

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