

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** DG Global Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 7 May 2021 2:54:02 PM

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Dear Tourism and Events Inquiry,

Our company - DG Global - has been one of the leading event companies in Victoria for three decades. So we can give the perspective of a company that organises University Open Days and Graduations, Award Gala Dinners and Charity Gala Balls for 1000 pas plus, Airline Activations and New Route Gala Launches, Corporate and Association Conferences, Sporting Gala Awards; our clients that have lived through this crisis.

We are seeing first hand the number of events that are not happening in Victoria because our clients just can't afford to take the risk of a last minute cancellation. The financial impact on them is currently far too great for them to be able to afford to hold their events.

We strongly believe that government backed Covid cancel insurance would help give a lot of event clients the confidence to be able to again hold events in Victoria. This insurance would allow many more events to happen, and in turn finally allow many event industries to have an ok income again. So it is essential.

It is generally agreed that Covid will remain a risk that will cause cancellation of events for a number of years to come, and that no commercial insurers will provide this coverage for the foreseeable future. So if there is no government backed Covid cancel insurance there will be many events not able to happen for a long time.

While there are many different possible approaches to event cancellation insurance, the model that is needed is one that would work for the majority of the event industry and not for just one small part of it.

The simplest approach is one similar to that being done by the federal government for the film industry. Film productions pay 1% of their production budget to get coverage for covid related cancellations.

So for events it could be that event organisers pay a premium equal to 1% of the event budget to the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority to get coverage for cancellation of their event due to Covid related risks. This approach would be relevant to events from small conferences for not-for-profit groups up to large education institutions, music festivals and to major corporates.

Sadly a number of our suppliers have not made it through this crisis. It has been heartbreaking to what really good people who we have worked with for many years lose their businesses and everything they have. Many of our suppliers are still doing it very tough. It is generally agreed that three quarters of our industry's technical talent has been lost. Many suppliers are still at great risk.

We need these suppliers to survive so we can still deliver high quality events for our clients in Victoria.

It is essential that there is direct financial support to the most at risk event industry businesses. We support a program of grants - similar to those given by the Tasmanian government last year - and as outlined in Save Victorian Events submission to the Inquiry.

I would welcome the opportunity to give more detailed evidence to the Inquiry about these and the other key issues facing the event industry in Victoria.

Regards

Steve Smith  
GENERAL MANAGER

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