

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

Mr Joe Fogarty

Organisation Name:Gig Power Pty Ltd

Your position or role: Manager

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

To whom it may concern:

The event industry in our great state of Victoria is a shell of it's former self. Melbourne, the cultural capital of our nation is finally getting back off it's knees after the multiple lockdowns except for our industry. The event industry. The industry that people call on in times of need. To raise money for flood, fires, famine or drought. The industry that contributes billions of dollars to our local economy, thousands of jobs and is usually always there to entertain us. With the restrictions still in place for large scale events, knee jerk reactive cancellations to festivals like Bluesfest and sudden border closures there is unfortunately next to no confidence left in the sector. What we need is a united voice, a federal framework and COVID cancellation insurance to ensure ALL suppliers are compensated in the unfortunate event of cancellation via border closures or government restrictions via an outbreak.

Gig Power is one of the premier entertainment suppliers in the country. It's an extremely niche industry, rich with talent and character. We've been a specialist company since our inception year of 1988 and have grown from supporting small national tours to large international acts, sporting events and theatre productions. We employ an average of 400 to 500 staff every year. This last year, we've had 37 - all on JobKeeper. Our last wage run we had 4 employees. 3 of those were our full-time office staff with them taking leave days to top up their wages to survive. The other 33 staff have had to join the queue at Centrelink along with our other staff that didn't qualify for JobKeeper back in March 2020. We're down at least 85% on turnover from last year. Our fear is real and our struggle is heartfelt.

Where is the support for our industry? Where is our tailored wage package like the airline sector? What about event insurance packages from the Federal government?

I look forward to hearing your solution to this crisis.

Best Regards

Joe Fogarty

Gig Power

Manager

2007 - Current

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:





Signature:
Joe Fogarty