

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

Ms Jamie Lea

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

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

JL Productions & Hire is a small but humble event management and styling & hire company located in regional Victoria. We hire our collection of rare, vintage, and sustainable goodies. We are planners, organisers, stylists, lovers, and supporters of our local music scene and we also have a caravan bar called “Grandpa Charlie”

But most importantly, we are most proud of our connection that we have with our community through events.

Like all event and tourism industries, we have seen a significant loss of income due to the impact of the pandemic on our industry.

Being in a country town and the demographic of our town and surrounding towns, we rely heavily on “making our own way” as we are not as fortunate enough to secure large 30k+ wedding and/or corporate bookings that larger companies in metropolitan areas may.

Ways we do this, are to hold and host our own events. Some examples may include hosting “Secret Garden Gigs” which are humble backyard gigs in locals gardens and our “Winter Sessions” events which are held in cozy halls and venues.

The restrictions have heavily impacted how we host these events, if at all.

Due to the current density quotient regulations, the majority of venues we hold our events (non-seated) must still apply to the 1 person per 2 square meter rule, which equates to us operating at about 30% capacity, which is not a viable option for us.

Another frustrating issue we continue to face is the lack of consistency between rules, regulations, and policing between event providers. In January we held one of our larger-scale events of the year in our event calendar. This event saw us reduce the number of attendees we could allow, however the expense to hold this event was much greater than in previous years. The rise in expenses mainly came down to our risk mitigation plans, including having the same amount of staff, hiring more security staff, more cleaners and we also engaged with a professional Covid safety consultant to ensure we were abiding by our obligations as organisers of a covid safe event. Although engaging with a professional was not a necessary requirement, we felt we had a responsibility to be leaders in our industry and ensure our staff and attendees were given a covid safe experience to the highest degree.

However, 2 months later (after a snap lockdown) and no changes in restrictions for outdoor events (at that time), myself and my team attended a day festival organised by a third party. We were met with mosh pits, no soap in bathrooms, no hand sanitiser stations and absolutely no signage about covid safety anywhere. We would really like to push to see more cohesion in our industry.

Having our industry literally shut down right in front of our eyes has been the most disheartening, unprecedented and mentally challenging circumstance we have ever faced.

Although things are starting to ramp up, we have a long way to go and we will not be able to continue operating without adequate support from our Government.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**  
**File2:**

**File3:**

**Confidentiality:**  
{Confidential1:value}

**Signature:**  
Jamie Lea