



Dear Senate Committee,

LIVE PERFORMANCE FEDERAL INSURANCE GUARANTEE FUND BILL 2021

This submission is to illustrate the impact COVID-19 and the resulting closure of live music events have had on my live entertainment business. Highlighting the need for a government backed insurance guarantee to alleviate the serious financial risks COVID-19 has placed on hosting live events.

I am the co-director of two Victorian based live entertainment businesses that have been operating for over 10 years with a combined pre-COVID turnover of \$4,045,954 (FY2020) generating:

- 4x full time jobs
- 1,500x parttime, casual, contractor and sole-trader employment opportunities.
- 2x intern opportunities.
- 650x volunteer opportunities.
- And generating \$8,000,000 in economic benefit to the region and communities where the events are hosted.

In FY2021 the combined turnover of the businesses were \$907,264 which is a 78% decrease in annual turn-over. The only reason it wasn't a 98.6% decrease was we literally risked our homes to host an event in April 2021 that through nothing, but luck and good fortune fell at a time when Victoria's COVID restriction were at their lowest and we were able to proceed with the event. If there had been an outbreak and snap locked down in the days leading up to the event the losses incurred would have likely bankrupted both companies resulting in huge financial impact on the directors and their families not to mention countless contractors, vendors, and artists.

Having been through the stress of running a show without insurance to cover the losses that would be incurred as a result of a snap COVID-19 related lock-down we are not willing to take this level of risk again and will keep postponing shows and the financial and employment benefits they bring until we are confident that a COVID outbreak and subsequent restriction will not shut our events down.

Without a Live Performance Federal Insurance Guarantee, we will need to continue to sit idle for potentially years until we feel confident enough that state governments COVID-19 related restrictions will not shut events down in the lead up to the event.

What a Live Performance Federal Insurance Guarantee will do is ensure that we have the confidence to host events as soon as the government restrictions are eased to a level that events can take place. While giving promoters and state governments the protection they needed should an isolated lock down be required.

I implore the senate committee to seriously consider this bill for the survival and fast recovery of Australia's world class live entertainment industry.

Yours sincerely

Rhett McLaren
RED HILL Entertainment Pty Ltd