

To the Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts,

I write to you in regard to the inquiry into Australia's creative and cultural industries and institutions.

Audio Technik is WA's largest audio hire company, an Australian-owned business responsible for delivering the vast majority of Perth's large live music events. Our inventory makes us the only business this side of the Nullarbor capable of providing for international touring acts in venues such as RAC Arena, HBF Stadium and Optus Stadium as well as for cultural institutions such as Perth Festival and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Despite the support of the Job Keeper program our situation is currently dire.

Our industry has been gutted by the coronavirus pandemic, with a loss of 98% of our previous year's income in Q4 of 2019/2020. While the situation in Western Australia has allowed for a slight improvement in planned events leading into summer, we are still very uncertain of our survival past the end of Job Keeper in March 2021.

If Audio Technik were to cease operation the ability for national organisers to bring events to Western Australia would be negatively impacted and would most likely involve multinational companies eventually opening offices in Perth.

We are by no means the only company in this position. Lighting, staging, and backline providers in Perth form the backbone of an industry that provides entertainment for countless West Australians and is in danger without further support.