

RE: Statement Regarding Live Streaming

Please let us preface this by saying, despite the impact to business, we understand the necessity to lockdown and ensure the health of our community. However, on occasion we cannot begin to understand some of the new decisions made.

On this occasion, it's the banning of live streaming from venues.

Over the last 18 months multiple venues across the state have entertained us while we've been in lockdown.

They have done this safely, from their LGA's and while socially distanced.

They have done this partially with the hope of creating themselves a small revenue stream, but mostly with two goals -

1. Giving a decimated live music industry some CPR, and
2. Providing some fun and entertainment to their communities in lockdown

This has now been banned. There has been no differentiation as to why a religious organisation can live stream, but a local business cannot.

So we ask, why have you once again banned live music and singled out an already devastated industry? Why not put in place the same rules around live streaming as are there for religious organisations.

Ceremonies and services can still be recorded or broadcast live from the place of worship for viewing online:

- Only those who are necessary to conduct the ceremony or to facilitate the broadcasting, such as a cameraperson and the person leading the service, may be on-site to record and live stream services (up to 5 people). These five people must be the same each time.
- People must wear a face mask unless an exception applies. You should keep at least 1.5 metres distance between each other at all times.

We're with you most of the way, and we appreciate the difficulty of the current decision making process, but in the words of Kenneth Spedding, Educational & Developmental Psychology Registrar.

"I work predominantly with adolescents and young adults. Here I have noticed that music and live performances can act as a protective factor against the stress of lockdown, but without it, people can lose a buffer and a valuable connection to the outside world, potentially reinforcing feelings of isolation."

Yours sincerely,

Victorian Regional Chamber Alliance