



Entertainment Technology New Zealand



PO Box 19108
Marion Square
Wellington 6149

01 February 2022

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance

Cc:

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Hon Kiri Allan, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Hon Stuart Nash, Minister for Economic and Regional Development, and Minister for Tourism

Tēnā koe Prime Minister, Tēnā koe Minister Robertson,

Since our move to Covid Protection Framework Level Red, we have canvassed our membership and the wider entertainment and event sector. Despite only being open for a few days, our survey reached 280 practitioners around Aotearoa. The people surveyed included company owners, employees, and a noteworthy 44% sole trader freelancers. These people have seen an estimated **loss of 85% of their revenue** for the period from 24 January to 1 May 2022 due to postponements or cancellations caused by the move to Red. This equates to an estimated **\$40 million loss from these 280 respondents**, of which there is certainly more. Since closing the survey we have received feedback from others whom the survey did not reach echoing the same sentiment: "Please help!"

We appreciate any opportunity to further discuss the following topics with you and the need for further assistance. As is reflected in our survey, sector specific support is urgently needed:

- 1. 95% of respondents would like to see a sector specific wage subsidy scheme or similar form of financial assistance to support our freelancers and businesses who meet the loss criteria, until the whole country is able to gather again without restrictions.**
- 2. 52% of respondents require further access into the MBIE and MCH support funds for cancelled events. Only 36% of respondents have been recipients of the schemes to date. In addition to increased accessibility for our sector, we will need these schemes to stay open past their current closing dates. Once we are able to hold events with uncapped gathering sizes, we will need them accessible to provide the confidence to hold events.**
- 3. 15% of respondents would like to see interest-free loans to assist with paying overhead costs such as rent, insurance, utilities, etc. These costs are not covered by the wage subsidies and support schemes during these high-risk periods where there aren't events taking place. We previously had the RSP to help support these costs, and it would also be welcome for many of our respondents.**

Included in our correspondence is a summary of survey results which provides further detail, along with many key points raised by the respondents. This includes their challenges and experiences with the support schemes, wellbeing, financial reserves, and simply putting food on the table. It speaks to the wide variety of work undertaken to put on events, and the range of regions affected across the country.

This move to Red has shown how challenging it is for trickle-down economics to reach the supply chain. 27% of our respondents don't expect to stay solvent for 3 months without targeted support, and many don't expect they can last that long.



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As mentioned in our previous correspondence, we do want to play our part in keeping our audiences, freelancers, and businesses safe from COVID-19. We recognise that many of the cancellations and postponements we are seeing are the result of this community awareness. We want to do all we can to ensure there are still skilled practitioners able to put on safe events once they are able to be held.

We look forward to your response and to further constructive contributions around the discussion table.

Ngā manaakitanga,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Cooksley'.

Vicki Cooksley
Entertainment Technology New Zealand President
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Background on ETNZ

Entertainment Technology New Zealand (ETNZ) is a professional association of people involved in the technical aspects of the event and entertainment industry. We have a broad membership of people ranging from students and individual practitioners through to larger national and international companies. Our goal is to support the New Zealand entertainment and event industry through professional development, advocacy, and safety. ETNZ have worked closely with Skills Active Aotearoa, who have lodged formal qualifications for our industry onto the New Zealand Qualification Framework and developed unit standards to meet these qualifications. ETNZ have also built relationships with like organisations from around the world.