



There are various factors contributing to the availability of affordable insurance. Risk is a key issue, including climate risk, along with personal injury risk. The insurance sector has attributed the problems facing Australian small and family businesses to a hardening of the global market, with the high cost of insurance correlating with the high cost of risk transfer across industries over the last decade.

The nature of live music – which combines crowds with alcohol consumption – means there can be a higher risk of accidents, loss or damage to occur (trips and falls, physical assaults), increasing the potential for claims (injury or death). Live-music sector representatives in Victoria have worked with industry bodies and in conjunction with the Insurance Council of Australia to introduce ways to improve risk management in the live music sector, but report limited change in premiums for essential insurance policies.

A contributing and related factor affecting small business, including those in the live-music sector, is the requirement to pay for access to Australian Standards. Small businesses and festival operators may either be unaware of relevant and up-to-date standards, or unable to gain access to them, and as a result use or provide ‘compromised’ products. This can in turn lead to increased claims and rising premiums.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has affirmed that the continued charging for Australian Standards that are referenced in Australian laws is a barrier to compliance, particularly for small businesses. The ACCC considers that referenced standards should be freely available and published on the internet by Standards Australia.⁷

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address these challenges to the Australian live music industry, the ASBFEO makes the following recommendations:

1. The insurance sector should help small businesses by mapping out pathways to solutions

Providing a clearer articulation of what policies cover, what is required by small businesses such as music venues, and how they can work with the insurance industry to address concerns, to help small businesses manage input costs and stay in business.

2. The Australian Government should encourage industry-led solutions for the Australian live-music industry

Industry-led solutions for music venues (indoor events) and music festival organisers (outdoor

