**IMPORTANT NOTE: This letter is for sole traders who are freelancers**

**Please edit the letter to suit your circumstances**

Your headed paper or personal contact address

Remember to include email and telephone

MP’s name

MP’s Address [You can find your local MP here](https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members)

Date:

Dear name of MP,

I am writing [again] to express the gravity of my situation. I work as a [job description] and am a sole trader working as a freelancer serving the [theatre/music/live performance/entertainments/events industry] in your electorate. By [add date] I will go out of business and I will be forced to abandon my career.

The recently announced federal arts rescue packages may sound like good news for the events industry, but in reality, the funding will not reach businesses like [company name]. The Prime Minister’s $250 million plans to restart Australia’s creative economy and $400 million incentive for the film and screen industry completely omits thousands of workers in audio, lighting, staging, video professions by targeting already-funded major arts institutions and film producers respectively. If any funding reaches me, it will likely be a small trickle-down as a single project several months on from now. Despite these programs, I and thousands like me have no direct way to apply for financial assistance beyond JobSeeker. Politicians and the public may think it is now ‘business as usual’ for the events industry, but this is far from the truth.

**Below is a snapshot of my current situation:**

* I am not currently working, and I have no work planned until [add date].
* I am not eligible for government support because [add reason]
* I am using my savings to cover living costs which I estimate will be exhausted by [add date].

I am one of thousands that work behind the scenes in live events. Every show relies on a complex supply chain involving hundreds of professionals, from manufacturing and distribution to production design and stage crew; in [Australia up to 443 people are involved in every performance.](https://www.facebook.com/WeMakeEventsAus/photos/a.115926910224141/115927876890711)

I have not worked on a major show since [March 2020] and current government plans make no mention of when live events may be able to return to normal. Frustratingly, while stadiums are allowed to host sports games there are no provisions to host live music, concerts and special events in spaces of any size which makes us unable to operate.

As a member of your electorate I need you to help those in government understand the devastating impact that not supporting the events supply chain would have. It is a much wider problem than the government has currently provided funds for. This is a highly skilled and developed industry that delivers and exports world class products and events on behalf of the Australia, with the country and its industry workers renowned across the globe for their expertise.

**I need the Government to review financial support for our industry as I work in a sector that will not start to see income generation until 2021. I am calling for the government to extend financial support for my sector in the form of:**

* **Capital grants, not loans** on cost of commercial rent, lease payments, insurance, business rates, tax breaks; and request the banks give longer mortgage holidays to businesses and individuals in our sector.
* **A continuation of the residential tenancy moratorium on evictions** until the live events industry is able to trade once again
* **Extensions of the JobSeeker / JobKeeper scheme at its original full rate** until the live events industry is able to trade once again.

**I need your voice to bring attention to the supply chain for entertainment and events which has been forgotten yet adds enormous value to the Australian economy**. I ask you to raise these issues in debates, letters, forums or whichever measures you feel will be most effective. If we don’t get help, we will lose valuable skilled people and companies across Australia and in your electorate, and we would all have used the government support schemes just to delay the inevitable.

I urgently await your response.

**Your sincerely,**

**Freelance [job description]**