



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - COVID19](#)
Subject: Impact of lockdown on my small business
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Hi

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight the impact this lockdown has had in my small business.

My business is a clothing and gift boutique in [REDACTED].

On average I turn over about [REDACTED] a week.

I employ two casual staff and myself.

My shop is 60metres square with high ceilings, double doors out to the street and I purchased 2 co2 monitors with the view that I would be up and trading in the 15th when this lockdown was due to end.

Upon hearing this lockdown would continue until the 29th of October I went into a very dark space personally and I have been fighting off depressive thoughts daily.

I go into my shop to unpack stock that has continued to arrive despite the lockdown and try and make sense of this ACT government decision.

I have to pack up stock that should have sold for winter as I can't find room on the racks for the new stock and I feel great sadness that I have lost all profit on those pieces because I lost the opportunity to sell them.

I moved shop in September because my relationship with my Chinese landlord was completely destroyed during the last lockdown as she refused to give reasonable rent concession and made me enter into a payment arrangement for deferred rent. The small business Commissioner and his assistant had no power to persuade her and if anything they under minded the whole negotiation.

I am heartened that my new landlord has given me a whole month rent relief for October and I have used government grants to pay for November rent ahead of time as I know I have no cash flow at this stage.

I am heartened also by the positive words the locals say when I see them and when I hear their agreement that it just isn't right that all businesses in our street will be up and running except mine on the 15th of this month.

I was depressed to receive the end of month statements last week from my suppliers and feel saddened that I could be trading and paying their accounts. I owe them for the goods that started to arrive in August that were ordered many months in advance of delivery and made to order for my clients.

I feel sad hanging these clothes on the rack knowing I won't be able to make the usual gross profit on them as the sell time has been reduced. Although not fast fashion, fashion is like food-it goes off after a season."

I felt so relieved to see [REDACTED] from the government land in my business account last night, and pleasure paying small amounts to each of my suppliers. I also felt anger at the government for not allowing me to open my doors and make this money for myself instead of taking a resource that could be spent more effectively.

I feel absolutely furious when I think that cafes that have been trading throughout this period are getting the exact same amount as me.

I wonder why last lockdown I was considered an essential worker because I had a job and I was allowed to operate my business for almost the entire period with sensible restrictions but this time I'm not and in fact I am considered the most dangerous business to be operating or least important to open on the 15th.

I wonder why can't I open my big spacious shop and have even just one client at a time?

I wonder how much community transmission would occur or has occurred from doing that.

I cry, I vent, I swear, I don't sleep, I shake my head.

I wonder why a hairdresser can operate but I can't?

I wonder what will happen with my relationships with suppliers, especially one of my important ones in New Zealand that doesn't really get what's happening here.

I watch the IGA in our strip take full advantage of the situation by diversifying and selling things that people can't source at the moment because businesses like mine just can't open their doors.

I wonder if I start selling tea, can people then buy giftware from my store? Maybe I should diversify so I can open the doors.

It's very very frustrating.

Why is it that across Australia the ACT is the only place that is treating small retailers this way?

Is the government really under the impression that click and collect works for businesses like mine?

I really hope that small retailers will see a change in this decision before the 15th of October and we will be able to trade in some reasonable capacity.

Kind Regards



Sent from my iPhone