



## Tara Cheyne MLA

Assistant Minister for Economic Development

Minister for the Arts

Minister for Business and Better Regulation

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Member for Ginninderra

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Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk ACT Legislative Assembly

[Secretariat@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:Secretariat@parliament.act.gov.au)

26 November 2020

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 2020 lodging petition No. 21-20 lodged by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA regarding Live In Ya Lounge, a live streaming music program run by Event Audio Visual Services (EAVS).

The local events sector has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of this, the ACT Government committed more than \$6 million in economic stimulus to support local business and jobs in Canberra's creative industries.

The events industry has pivoted and adapted significantly to find ways to continue to provide the social, community, and health and wellbeing benefits that the arts deliver. EAVS took an innovative approach in its desire and commitment to support the arts sector with Live In Ya Lounge, and in doing so provided paid performance opportunities for local artists to continue to reach audiences safely, primarily through a donation funding model.

To help EAVS facilitate Live In Ya Lounge, the ACT Government provided a comprehensive assistance package, totalling \$94,990. Assistance included discounted venue hire, equipment hire and storage provided free of charge and a range of other measures available for local businesses in addition to ACT Government assistance for operations. The ACT Government also provided program funding for the provision of services to the Where You Are festival.

It is regrettable that, while the Canberra community valued Live In Ya Lounge, the donation funding model did not support its ongoing sustainability.

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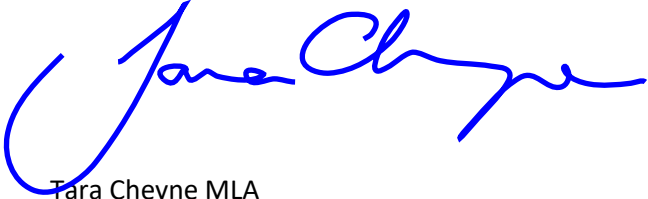
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The ACT Government acknowledges and commends EAVS' efforts to support the local music industry and, in turn, the broader Canberra community through Live In Ya Lounge. The ACT Government remains committed to supporting the arts and events sector.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tara Cheyne', written in a cursive style.

Tara Cheyne MLA

26 November 2020