

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY — SUPPORT PROGRAM

44. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to funding provided by Western Australian taxpayers for the \$15 million Getting the Show Back on the Road shared risk package to support the reactivation of live performances and touring activities following the COVID pandemic.

- (1) Did 100 per cent of the funds provided to the live entertainment industry go towards assisting the companies impacted by COVID shutdowns?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of any success fees or kickbacks being paid by the industry to Brian Burke for his involvement in securing multimillion dollar taxpayer rescue packages?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) Our management of the COVID-19 pandemic was exemplary. In fact, with the help of the Western Australian people, we saved hundreds, if not thousands of lives through the management of COVID-19. Although that was the most important impact of the efforts of everyone in Western Australia, the other impact of our management of COVID-19 was to save hundreds, if not thousands of Western Australian jobs. We kept people in business and we kept businesses alive so that when we got through COVID-19, those companies could continue to employ people and bring Western Australia back to life. It was an important part of what we did to save the Western Australian economy.

Our Getting the Show Back on the Road funding enabled a lot of those businesses to stay alive and continue to employ people during those troubled times. It was not a unique program. It was replicated throughout Australia. Every state government either copied us or worked with us around the program to make sure that they kept their live entertainment industries alive. We are very proud of that work and we made sure that that money got to the businesses that needed it and enabled their people to continue to be employed.

As for the other questions from the member, I do not know. The member will have to ask them.