



SAFE VENUES RESEARCH REPORT

01

Proudly presented by
musicNT





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Introduction

- 16 venues consulted in four locations including 10 site visits to venues.
- 37 respondents to an online survey.
- 1 confidential group meeting held with female-identifying musicians.
- 3 one-on-one phone calls with musicians.





Survey Overview

04

The online survey was open to the public throughout November and promoted via MusicNT's online email distribution lists and social media channels. It was designed to get a broad overview of the public's perspective of safety in live music venues and at music festivals.



Of the 37 respondents...

- 51.35%** self-identify as female
- 35.14%** self-identify as male
- 13.51%** otherwise identify
- 10.81%** culturally & linguistically diverse
- 2.7%** First Nations

97.3%

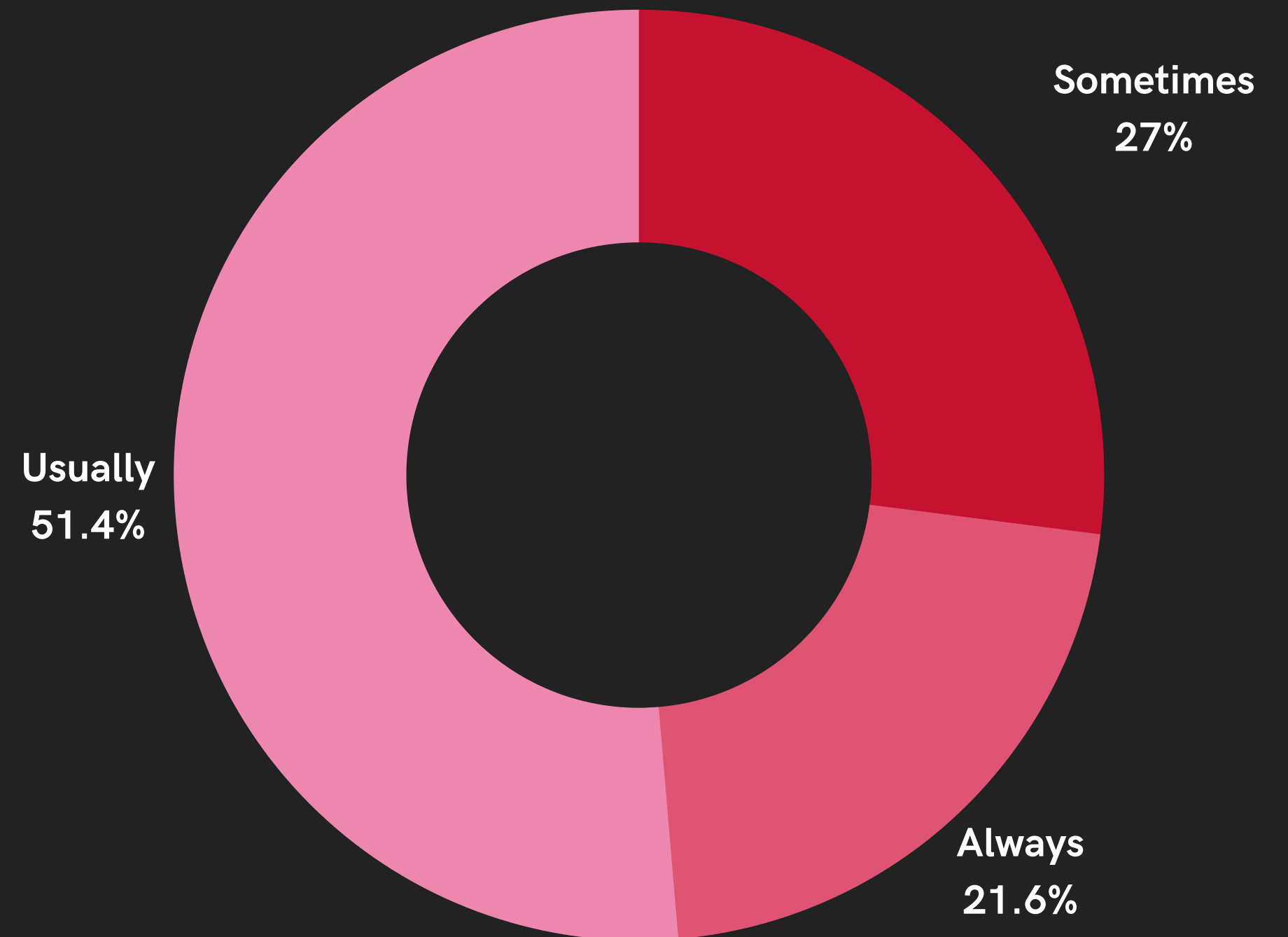
believe the NT music industry will benefit from having a Safe Venues Program



Safety in live music venues

05

Survey Question 9 asked, "Do you feel safe at NT live music venues?"





06



Creating safer music venues

Survey respondents were presented with 12 strategies, plus the option to add their own, to create safer live music venues. Each of those presented had 20 or more votes from the 37 responses.



Further Feedback/Thoughts



07

"Anti-discrimination training for staff and anti-sexual harassment training for staff".

Safe places in larger venues that are quiet and calm - time out rooms if you feel you need it. Unbiased security".

"Transparent policies about where they stand, knowing you will be listened to if assault or anything occurs, no problem too small".

"Real avenues for people to report harassment with obvious and swift consequences".



Further Feedback/Thoughts

08

"Security/staff taking an active role in letting anyone behaving inappropriately know that it is unacceptable & they will be removed if they continue".

"Transparency of incidences, greater commitment to RSA processes".

"Things like the safe/codeword mentioned, and if there are posters with unacceptable behaviour that may make it easier for staff to address issues with troublemakers".

"More space as a live performer between us and the crowd - stage if there is none, some form of barrier if necessary".



Key Issues

09

Darwin/Palmerston

Intoxication

RSA compliance and intoxication were reported as a key issue by the majority of venues interviewed.

Noise complaints

Venues outside Darwin's CBD reported noise complaints becoming a big issue, namely in the last 12/24 months.

Harassment of staff/security

The most commonly-reported behaviour resulting in the eviction and banning of a punter was harassment of venues staff and/or security.



Key Issues

Alice Springs

Security

Reporting of discrimination by security guards is commonplace throughout a number of venues, as is inflammatory behaviour from guards.

Communication with other venues

Contemporary music venues all reported a desire for there to be more communication among live music venues and similar messaging around safety.

Violence

Both sexual and domestic violence have been reported by venues throughout Alice Springs.



Key Issues

Katherine

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Security

Only one security company in Katherine and won't service venues. General consensus is that even if they did, venues wouldn't use them. Have to rely on limited sole traders or pay security staff to travel from Darwin.

Transport

No taxis in town, even after an offer from a venue to pay additional security to man a taxi rank. Member clubs have buses but only take people home, not to other venues. No way for intoxicated people to get to/from location or home from other venues.



Key Issues

Tennant Creek

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Take away alcohol

Across the board venues and organisations believe take-away alcohol causes more issues than licensed venues. Incidences occur more frequently in the streets than in venues.

Security

Much like Katherine, the provision of security guards is difficult in Tennant Creek. Venues hire sole traders/train their own staff and have had to send them to Alice Springs or Adelaide to facilitate training.



Local Musician Feedback

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Culture

- People need to be encouraged to help when they see someone who is uncomfortable.
- Management need to take more responsibility for setting the culture of their venues.
- It needs to be recognised that demeaning and sexually explicit comments can escalate into physical issues and these comments need to be stopped.

Licensing

- Consistency across licensing and security requirements for live music venues needs to be established to ensure the safety of everyone.



Responses to incidents

- Security personnel need to be better trained to deal with issues before they escalate and to be able to recognise when people are feeling uncomfortable/unsafe and respond proactively.
- All venue staff need to be better educated to ensure protocols are in place to deal with these issues.
- A point of contact for performers should be designated if things are getting out of hand and security is not responding.

WHS

- WHS extends to musicians and performers.
- Safety of performers includes before/ after gigs as well as getting their equipment into the venue.
- A safe place to store equipment and instruments away from patrons should be considered.

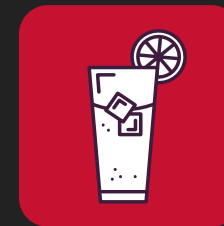
Local Musician Feedback





Government Engagement

From the research conducted and feedback gathered, we have established that we will need to engage with these Northern Territory Government bodies to efficiently implement change through the Safe Venues Program...



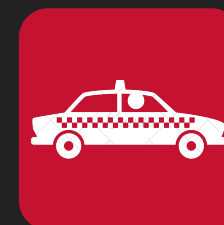
Licensing NT



NT Police



NT WorkSafe



Department of Infrastructure,
Planning and Logistics



NT Anti-Discrimination Commission



The Next Steps

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February/March

Finalise program policies for participating venues. Develop workshop for venue management/staff to provide knowledge and tools to implement the policies.

April

Present the program workshop for the first time in Darwin/Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Develop audience marketing material.

May

Use participant feedback to inform changes and make adjustments to the workshop. Distribute live music audience marketing material to venues, begin active campaign.

June/July

Second run of workshops in four key locations. Gathering of feedback and data to compile report. Continue audience campaigning around acceptable behaviours.





Contact Us

For questions or concerns

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Your **good time** shouldn't
come at the **expense** of
someone else's.