



Media Release – For immediate release

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The Great Performing Arts Cull - \$6.2 million impact in Victoria

The Coalition Government's funding cuts to the Australia Council will have a devastating impact on the live performance industry in Victoria – the Federal Arts Minister's home state – according to new analysis by Live Performance Australia.

LPA Chief Executive Evelyn Richardson said eight small to medium performing arts companies had lost all of their operational funding from the Australia Council, while another four companies have had their funding reduced.

'Live performance companies in Victoria have lost a total of \$6.2 million through funding cuts or reductions in their funding allocation for the Australia Council four year funding round.

'These cuts are the legacy of the Coalition's 2015 budget which slashed \$110 million in funding from the Australia Council.

'While three companies have received new funding from the Australia Council, the reality is these cuts will lead to fewer performances and job losses in the performing arts industry in Victoria.

'At a time when the Government talks about supporting jobs, growth and innovation, it is doing exactly the opposite for Australia's \$2.5 billion live performance industry which employs 34,000 Australians,' Ms Richardson said.

Live Performance Australia is calling for the return of \$72.8 million in funding to the Australia Council to ensure the ongoing viability and growth of our small to medium companies which are a critical part of the live performance industry.

VIC performing arts companies defunded by the Australia Council include:

- Arena Theatre Company
- BalletLab Association
- Kage Physical Theatre Association
- Ranters Theatre
- Red Stitch Actors Theatre
- Snuff Puppets
- The Black Arm Band
- Wangaratta Festival of Jazz

Companies that have received reduced funding from the Australia Council include:

- Back to Back Theatre
- Chunky Move
- Hothouse Theatre
- La Mama

LPA is still seeking a meeting with the Victorian-based Minister for the Arts, Senator Fifield, to discuss the funding cuts and its policy priorities for the live performance industry.

Meetings have been held with the ALP and the Greens.

ENDS



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About LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has over 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial producers, music promoters, major performing arts companies, small to medium companies, independent producers, major performing arts centres, metropolitan and regional venues, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas, arts festivals, music festivals, and service providers such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers. Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities. LPA has a clear mandate to advocate for and support policy decisions that benefit the sustainability and growth of the live performance industry in Australia.