



Budget delivers for live music but fails to commit to a bold vision for live performance and creative industries more broadly

Dear Member

The Federal Government handed down the 2019-20 Budget tonight (2 April 2019).

LPA RESPONSE TO FEDERAL BUDGET 2019-20

The Morrison Government has delivered a major live music package but failed to deliver any new investment to Australia's much larger \$2.5 billion live performance industry.

Live Performance Australia (LPA) Chief Executive, Evelyn Richardson welcomed the Australian Music Industry package and said, "This is a significant and well overdue investment in Australia's live music industry and we are pleased to see the Government recognise the economic and cultural importance of our music sector which is worth close to \$1 billion locally plus cultural exports of \$6 billion.

"The \$30.9 million package announced in the Budget will support the domestic live music scene through supporting live music venues and providing critical investment for indigenous music, a women in music mentor program and exports.

"The package also addresses some key issues faced by the live music industry that emerged during the House Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts' inquiry into factors contributing to the growth and sustainability of the Australian music industry.

"However, we are disappointed that the Government has not done more to leverage the significant economic and cultural value of all live performance or the creative industries more broadly. It's now some four years since the Catalyst fiasco and with the exception of the Live Music package, we have yet to see any meaningful policy initiatives or plan for the future.

"LPA put forward a number of proposals to Government in its Budget submission to support new Australian content, drive industry development and job creation for our \$2.5 billion live performance industry.

"Each year more than 23 million people attend a live performance in our capital cities, regional centres and country towns. Live performance promotes Australian talent and creativity across a range of genres, and is a major driver of our visitor and night time economy, attracting visitors from interstate and overseas to see performances or attend festivals.

"It's time for the Morrison Government to commit to a broader, bolder vision and some significant long term, strategic policy initiatives that support its future growth," Ms Richardson said.

LPA's full media release in response to the Federal Budget is available [here](#).

While LPA welcomes the new Live Music Industry Package, we are disappointed that no new initiatives were announced for the broader industry. New initiatives announced for the Communications and Arts portfolio include:

LIVE MUSIC INDUSTRY PACKAGE

New funding and initiatives introduced as part of the **\$30.9m Australian Music Industry Package** include:

- **\$22.5m over five years** from 2019-20 to **Live Music Australia** to assist thousands of **Australian small businesses** with grants of up to \$10,000 each for artist costs and to invest in equipment or infrastructure to establish or upgrade live music venues and schedule more performances.
- **\$2.1m over five years** from 2019-20 to deliver a **Women in Music Mentor program** to help women to take their music career to the next level, including professional training in contract negotiation, marketing, and finance.
- **\$2.7m over five years** from 2019-20 to establish a **national Indigenous Contemporary Music development program** for Indigenous musicians and bands for touring, recording and planning effective touring circuits.
- **\$2m over four years** from 2019-20 for the **Australia Council to increase performance opportunities** for musicians, including in regional venues.
- **\$1.6m over five years** from 2019-20 for **Sounds Australia** to expand the program to assist the Australian music industry to capitalise on emerging markets in Asia.

OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE INITIATIVES

Guaranteeing Australia's Public Broadcasters – funding for the ABC and SBS

The Government will provide an **additional \$73.3m**, comprising:

- **\$43.7m over three years** from 2019-20 to the ABC to continue to support local news and current affairs services, particularly in regional areas; and
- **\$29.6m over three years** from 2019-20 to the SBS to guarantee the ongoing quality of its television, radio and online services.

Bundanon Trust Art Centre

The Government will provide **\$22.0m over three years** from 2019-20 to support the ongoing work of the Bundanon Trust. The Bundanon Trust is a custodian of the artworks, landscape and historic buildings gifted by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd to its care.

National Collecting Institutions – capital works funding

The Government will provide **\$8.0m in 2019-20** to the Department of Communications and the Arts for Australia's National Collecting Institutions to undertake capital works to address critical safety issues.

National Library of Australia – Digitisation Fund

The Government will provide **\$10.0m over four years** from 2019-20 to the National Library of Australia (NLA) to establish a Digitisation Fund. The Digitisation Fund, which will also seek philanthropic contributions, will enable the continued digitisation of the NLA's significant collection and expand its availability to all Australians through its online database, Trove.

Support for Tasmanian Tourism

The Government will provide **\$1.5m in 2019-20** to support the installation of a major light show in Tasmania as part of the Museum of Old and New Art's winter Dark Mofo festival. The light show will encourage tourism in Tasmania during the closure of the Tahune Airwalk as a result of recent bushfires.

The Tasmanian Government will also make a \$500,000 contribution.

Adelaide City Deal

The Budget includes **\$165.0m** from 2019-20 to fund projects under the Adelaide City Deal. This funding includes **\$85.0m for an Aboriginal Arts and Cultures Gallery**.

Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Mitch Fifield's Media Release on the 2019-20 Budget can be found [here](#).

ARTS EDUCATION

The Budget includes **\$3.3m over four years** from 2019-20 to continue arts education programs, including:

- **\$0.5m over two years** to 2020-21 to Music Australia to support Australia's largest school-based music initiative, Music: Count Us In.
- **\$1.3m over three years** from 2021-22 for the Song Room to support the rollout of Transformational Learning Through Creativity.
- **\$1.3m over four years** from 2022-23 for Bell Shakespeare's National Education Program.
- **\$2.4m** in 2018-19 for the Mobile Musical Education Program to increase participation and engagement in music education by school students, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas.

The Budget also includes **\$525m in VET**, including the establishment of the National Skills Commission and a National Careers Institute.

VISAS

The Government is increasing the base visa application charge (VAC) for all visa subclasses, with the exception of the Visitor (subclass 600) visa, by 5.4 per cent **from 1 July 2019**. We will advise Members when these changes are formally announced.

BUSINESS

The Government has announced a higher-than-expected surplus of **\$7.1b for 2019-20**, equal to 0.4 per cent of GDP, but forecast to remain in deficit for 2018-19.

Building on the previously budgeted personal tax cuts – low- and middle-income earners will receive tax cuts up to \$1080 for single earners and \$2160 for double income households. The 32.5 per cent tax rate will be reduced to 30 per cent in 2024-25. From 2022-23, the threshold for the 19 per cent tax bracket will increase from \$41,000 to \$45,000. **The total cost to budget will be \$19.5b over forward estimates.**

Increasing the instant asset write off threshold to **\$30,000 from 2 April 2019 to 30 June 2020 available to businesses with a turnover of up to \$50m** (up from a \$25,000 threshold for businesses with turnover up to \$10m).

There will be a modest increase in the operating budget of the Fair Work Ombudsman and Registered Organisations Commission from **\$166m in 2018-19 to \$177m in 2019-20**.

ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION

Further information on the 2019–20 Federal Budget can be found via:

- [Federal Budget 2019–20 Papers](#)
- [Department of Communications and the Arts](#) (including portfolio budget statements)
- [Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Media Release](#)

Any additional Federal Budget details that arise will be communicated to Members.

Should you have any queries with regard to the measures outlined within the Federal Budget 2019–20, please contact LPA Policy Advisor, Eliza Harris, via [email](#) or phone (03) 8614 2000.



Live Performance Australia
Level 1, 15-17 Queen Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australia

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