



Media Release – For immediate release

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Live performance industry welcomes Federal Government arts and entertainment package

Australia's live performance industry has warmly welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of a significant package of targeted funding measures to support the arts and entertainment industry recover from the impact of COVID-19 over the next 12 months.

Live Performance Australia's President, Richard Evans said, "We thank the Prime Minister and Arts Minister with this announcement to restart our industry, a significant acknowledgement of the arts and entertainment industry's critical role in creating jobs and growth within the Australian economy.

"We look forward to working closely with the government to get our businesses safely up and running and in front of audiences across Australia as soon as possible."

Live Performance Australia's Chief Executive, Evelyn Richardson said, "Our industry was the first to be profoundly affected by the public health restrictions to combat COVID-19, and faces a longer road to recovery as restrictions are progressively lifted around the country.

"COVID-19 has caused significant damage and disruption for our industry: performing arts companies and venues closed overnight; performers, production and technical staff and crews were without work or stood down; and companies and organisations were left with no alternative sources of revenue.

"JobKeeper has been an important support for those who have been able to access it. However, many in our industry have suffered devastating income losses, along with the many businesses which rely on our industry, including across the tourism and hospitality sector.

"That's why the measures announced in this package, which reflect our industry's unique characteristics and the challenges it faces, are so important. They also recognise the significant economic contribution that our commercial sector makes to Australia's economic and cultural well-being.

"Commercial production companies are among the biggest generators of employment and economic activity in the performing arts, and it is pleasing to see their contribution and needs have been addressed in this package.

The package includes \$75 million of capital funding to help production and event businesses put on new festivals, concerts, tours and events as social distancing restrictions ease. Grants of between \$75,000 and \$2 million will be available.

"This is a vital injection of capital funding which will help live performance companies reopen and start to rebuild after the impact of the overnight loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue over the past three months," Ms Richardson said.

There is also \$90 million in concessional loans to be backed by government guarantee, along with \$35 million in direct financial assistance to support Commonwealth-funded arts organisations, as well as \$50 million to assist local screen production.



“We greatly appreciate the support of the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts in developing this package and their recognition of the important contribution the arts and entertainment industry makes to Australia’s economic, social and cultural life.

“State and territory governments have also put in place critical funding measures to support the industry through this period. Their continued support as we reopen and reactivate over the coming months will also be vital.

“Our priority now is to get our industry fully operational, our venues open and our people back to work. We are very much looking forward to turning the lights back on and seeing our performers and artists back on stage and touring as soon as practicable”, she said.

Ms Richardson also welcomed the establishment of a Creative Economy Taskforce to guide the implementation of these funding programs.

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About LPA

Live Performance Australia (LPA) is the peak body for Australia’s live performance industry. Established over 100 years ago 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.