



Media Release – For Immediate Release

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Victoria: Game over for arts and entertainment industry

Live Performance Australia (LPA), the arts and entertainment industry peak body, today called on the Victorian Government to urgently outline the roadmap to returning to pre-lock down settings so industry can plan and prepare for reopening.

LPA Chief Executive Evelyn Richardson said industry has been calling for clarity for three weeks.

“What started as a seven-day ‘circuit breaker’ has morphed into a six to eight week total shutdown for our industry.

“We recognise that assessments are made daily based on epidemiological evidence, but the uncertainty about how and when we can re-open is crippling. We are not an industry that can just turn the lights on overnight.

“There continues to be inconsistency in the rules with a bias towards sport over cultural events. 7,000 people from Geelong can go to a football match, but they can’t attend a music event.

“We also can’t re-open at drastically reduced capacity every time there is a snap lock down. The current maximum of 75 people at an indoor seated venue is completely unviable for almost all live performance events and venues.

“Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s cultural and major events capital is in tatters following the latest announcement on restrictions. Government is showing a complete disregard for one of our State’s most distinguishing and hard fought economic, social and cultural brand attributes.

“Producers are now cancelling more shows, standing more people down, and regional tours within Victoria and interstate have been further disrupted or won’t go ahead. The message from today is that Victoria is closed for business and likely to remain that way throughout winter, with the continuing spectre of future snap lock downs and punishing restrictions for the live performance industry.

“Victoria has gone from being the premier destination for shows and events to the riskiest place to do business.

“The lack of a proportionate response from government is beyond comprehension.

“We have been operating our venues safely in Victoria and have managed the risks through detailed COVIDSafe Plans that have been developed in consultation with Health and government officials. These have been approved, implemented and proven successful in Victoria and around the country. We also have QR Codes and data for all patrons attending our theatres. With QR code compliance, rapid contact tracing, testing and mask wearing, our businesses meet the highest level of compliance in our daily operations.

“We again urge the Victorian Government to work with us a matter of urgency on a roadmap for restarting live performance events. Otherwise, without a plan, the show is over for Victoria”, Ms Richardson said.

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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.