

COVID-19: STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE INDUSTRY

Federal

Commercial

- Provide direct budget support for the duration of this financial year for all live performance businesses impacted by event and venue closures to enable continuity of their operations and employment levels throughout the shutdown period and to ensure viability for future recovery. This may be through a large-scale compensation fund to help cover costs or lost earnings associated with event cancellations
- Provide a cash injection to service providers (e.g. sound, lighting, AV, ticketing, staging, security, agents and managers) to enable them to meet cash and reserve shortfalls that will confront them in the next six months
- Provide one-off grants to businesses in the live performance industry to help cover costs associated with general expenses (e.g. utilities, maintenance, amenities)
- Rebate transaction fees through ticketing companies for tickets that have been refunded in full, which can be passed back to promoters, venues, festivals etc.
- Provide tax relief to business – including payroll tax exemptions, deferral of BAS returns and GST payments for 12 months
- Mental health – provide \$20m additional funding to Support Act to provide crisis and hardship support to the sector
- Refund immigration fees paid for Sub-Class 408 entitlement visas to those promoters and producers who have had events cancelled

Banking, Finance and Property

- Work with the banking industry to provide relief to businesses in the live performance industry. For example, banks could provide:
 - Fee waivers (including for withdrawal of term deposits)
 - Deferral of loan repayments for 6+ months (commercial and personal)
 - Bank establishment fee waivers for loan restructuring
 - Provide zero-interest loans to small businesses, repayable within 3-5 years
 - Terminal access fee waivers for businesses with merchant facilities
- Hold the insurance industry accountable by insisting they pay legally and contractually applicable claims
- Lease/rental payment relief from commercial landlords

Subsidised Sector via Australia Council

- Provide a cash injection to performing arts companies to enable them to meet cash and reserve shortfalls that will confront them in the next 6 months



- Provide additional funding to the Australia Council to fund all organisations that were assessed as worthy of funding in the four-year funding review
- Waive funding conditions and relax key performance measures for those organisations which receive government grant or multi-year funding to enable business continuity
- Refocus existing arts grants programs to help compensate individual artists and freelancers for lost earnings
 - For example, Playing Australia funding can only be used to cover touring costs. If a venue cancels the show, allow the producer to use the funds to pay artists/performers, rather than transportation costs

Live Music via Live Music package

- Repurpose and bring forward the allocated \$22 million Live Music package to be spent over the next 12 months

Individual – Artists, Contractors, Sole Traders and Casuals

- Expedite immediate access to income support for industry workers who have lost employment or income due to venue or event closures, including casual workers and sole traders
- Extend the fifty percent wage subsidy for apprentices and trainees to artists, performers, creatives and technical crew who are employed by companies in the live performance industry
- Provide one-off grants to businesses in the live performance industry to help cover costs associated with staff salaries and leave payments
- Provide government subsidised fuel/food vouchers for arts workers
- Employ transient music industry workforce to assist in areas of need – logistics contractors for the movement of medical supplies or other goods, labour hire workers used for bushfire regeneration etc.

State and Local Governments

State-Based Cultural Institutions

- Provide a cash injection to performing arts venues to enable them to meet cash and reserve shortfalls that will confront them in the next 6 months
- Waive rental payments for tenants based in state owned arts facilities and venues to end December 2020
- Provide additional funding to state-owned performing arts centres for professional programming in preparation for reactivation phase

State Funded Companies

- Extend all current government funding arrangements for the next 12 months to minimise disruption to existing companies
- Provide a cash injection to performing arts companies to enable them to meet cash and reserve shortfalls that will confront them in the next 6 months
- Waive funding conditions and relax key performance measures for those organisations which receive government grant or multi-year funding to enable business continuity
- Provide payroll tax relief

Live Performance Venues (Performing Arts and Live Music)

- Waive the following until 30 December 2020 for all live performance venues:
 - Rental (if on Government or Council land)
 - Stamp Duty on business insurance
 - Council Rates
 - Land Tax
 - Liquor licensing fees
 - Labour hire license renewal fees
 - WorkCover premiums
 - Utilities – all non-usage charges (electricity and gas network access charge, water rates etc.)
- Offer refunds/rebates for all compliance and essential safety service fees

Regional Venues

- Provide a cash injection to performing arts regional venues to enable them to meet cash and reserve shortfalls that will confront them in the next 6 months
- Establish a programming fund that can be accessed by local government performing arts venues and regional venues

Post-Recovery

- Launch a national marketing campaign (similar to #EmptyEsy and post bush fire campaign) during the recovery phase to give consumers confidence to attend live events (#ExperienceLive, #SeeltLive)
- Provide new funding to support the recovery phase, including:
 - A significant marketing campaign to restore public confidence and encourage Australians to attend live events,
 - A stimulus to assist Australians to spend on live events, and
 - Extend tax incentives to pre-production costs for live productions and to live music venues
- Provide additional \$100 million over four years to Australia Council to support performing arts companies