**Live Performance Australia**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Member Advice Update #14**

**Government Economic Stimulus Edition**

***Arts-focused stimulus***

* **Australia Council**
* **South Australia**
* **Tasmania**
* **Australian Capital Territory**
* **Local government**

***Economy-wide stimulus***

* **Queensland**
* **South Australia**
* **Northern Territory**
* **Quick links to State and Territory economic stimulus packages**

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| **AUSTRALIA COUNCIL**  The Australia Council for the Arts (Australia Council) has [announced](https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about/covid-19/) its **first Response Package** to support artists, arts practitioners, arts groups and arts organisations coping with the impact of COVID-19. Measures include:   * Reporting and other grant conditions relief for organisations and individuals who have current Australia Council arrangements * Adjustments to Four Year Funding 2021-2024. More information will be available on 30 March 2020 * Suspending current investment programs and redirecting **approximately $5 million**to new programs designed to provide immediate relief to Australian artists, arts workers and arts organisations * Launching Creative Connections, an online webinar series for the cultural sector, offering practical, accessible and useful professional development * Offering a weekly series of First Nations’ Roundtables for artists, creatives and organisations each Friday from 2:00pm-3:00pm (AEST). Register [here](https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-arts/first-nations-roundtables/) * Sector roundtables to work with the sector to codesign responses to COVID-19 * Digital support through a new Facebook Group [Arts and creative industry: digital support](https://www.facebook.com/groups/669197597161146/?source_id=98717745271) * Working with artists, organisations, industry and government to deliver a development program to assist Australia's cultural sector * Research and analysis to identify the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on Australia's cultural sector. If you are currently running a survey or considering it, please email [researchenquiries@australiacouncil.gov.au](mailto:researchenquiries@australiacouncil.gov.au) |

**ARTS SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
  
On 24 March 2020, the South Australian Government [announced](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/arts-and-culture/news/covid-19-arts-grants-support) that Arts South Australia has reconfigured its available grant funds to assist artists and organisations to respond to immediate pressures. **Total funding of $1.5 million** will be allocated in the coming weeks. The opportunities are as follows:

* [**Innovating Practice**](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/arts-and-culture/grants/covid-19-arts-grants-support/innovating-practice)**:**quick response grants of **$5,000 to $10,000**for independent, professional artists towards the purchase, hire or upgrade of technology and equipment – to enable development and sharing of new and existing work via digital and virtual platforms. **Applications close 5:00pm (ACST) 31 March 2020**
* [**Creative Endeavour**](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/arts-and-culture/grants/covid-19-arts-grants-support/creative-endeavour)**:**quick response grants of **$5,000 to $10,000** for independent, professional artists to undertake professional development or continue creative practice in whatever form that may take. Priority will be given to supporting artists who have had contracts cancelled, performances and tours cancelled, exhibitions postponed due to closed galleries, etc. **Applications close 5:00pm (ACST) 31 March 2020**
* [**Arts Organisations' Collaboration**](https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/arts-and-culture/grants/covid-19-arts-grants-support/expressions-of-interest-for-arts-organisations-collaboration-grants)**:** grants of up to $100,000 for major arts and cultural organisations, the small-to-medium sector and independent artists to achieve employment outcomes, explore new ways of working together, create and develop work and engage with audiences. **Applications close 5:00pm (ACST) 14 April 2020.**

Arts South Australia is also working with many organisations funded through the Arts Organisations Program that will be granted supplementary funding for a predetermined amount.  
  
Arts South Australia is providing flexibility for artists and arts organisations by:

* Varying the purpose, conditions and reporting requirements for all existing grants and applications submitted in recent grant rounds where circumstances have changed as a result of COVID-19
* Approving variations to current funding agreements to enable activity to be continued in different ways, or to enable funding recipients to honour existing contractual agreements especially with artists and arts workers, or retain grant funding and apply it to other more pressing purposes
* Simplifying application and reporting requirements to reduce administrative burden and fast-track the release of funds.

**TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT - CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES STIMULUS PACKAGE**  
  
On 26 March 2020, the Tasmanian Government [announced](https://www.arts.tas.gov.au/news_articles/cultural_and_creative_industries_stimulus_package) **new funding of $1.5 million and operational measures of over $2 million** to support the individuals and organisations leading Tasmania’s renowned cultural sector. Measures include:

* **$500,000** of additional competitive funding for arts organisations not captured in annual funding extension for arts organisations, to support additional employment and activity
* Grants of up to **$15,000**to support contemporary musicians whose engagements have been cancelled due to COVID-19 to record music and music videos for digital distribution and promotion
* Over **$1.5 million** to extend the contract of 19 arts organisations in receipt of single year or final year funding through the Organisations program to continue to operate and plan activities for 2021
* Over **$300,000** in early payment of outstanding 10% balances to Arts Tasmania clients to immediately assist funded clients to cashflow. This will be paid as soon as clients provide an invoice rather than withheld until acquittals have been received, processed and accepted.

In addition to this funding, the Tasmanian Government’s **small business emergency supports grants program of $20 million** will be established for initial emergency grant payments of $2,500 to business, including those in the arts sector, who are suffering financial hardship.

**ACT GOVERNMENT HOMEFRONT - A SURVIVAL PACKAGE FOR CANBERRA'S ARTISTS AND CREATIVES**  
  
On 24 March 2020, the ACT Government [announced](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/gordon-ramsay-mla-media-releases/2020/homefront-a-survival-package-for-canberras-artists) Homefront - a survival package for Canberra's artists and creatives.  
  
Funding of **up to $10,000 per artist** will be available to support arts development and the sustainability of their arts practices over the next 6-9 months. A total of $500,000 will be available.  
  
**Applications will open on 30 March 2020 and will close on 17 April 2020 at 5:00pm (AEST).**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PACKAGES**  
  
**City of Sydney**  
  
On 20 March 2020, the City of Sydney [announced](https://liveperformance.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/080X2803.pdf) the first stage of their **COVID-19 Business, Arts and Creative Support package**.  
  
The **$25 million package of measures** include the following, which will be in place for an initial period of six months:

* Waiving fees for Health and Building compliance activities
* Reviewing, in conjunction with its tenants, rents in City premises for tenants that require support on a case-by-case basis
* Waiving its standard contractual terms and returning booking and banner fees to people and organisations who have booked City of Sydney venues and are now unable to proceed with their bookings
* Waiving footway dining, market permit and filming fees on the grounds of hardship
* Flexible parking infringements.

The City will also work with major business partners and contractors, whether or not services continue to be provided in their current form, to support them as much as possible so they can continue to pay their staff during this period and maintain business continuity in the long term.  
  
**City of Melbourne**  
  
On 26 March 2020, the City of Melbourne [announced](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/strategies-support/funding/Pages/assistance-creatives-covid-19.aspx) **$2 million in financial assistance for artists or small organisations** to develop new work, or for digital presentation of artistic works and performances. **Submissions close 5:00pm (AEST) 31 March 2021.**  
  
On 26 March 2020, the City of Melbourne also [announced](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/Pages/Grants-open-for-businesses-affected-by-COVID-19.aspx) **$5 million in financial support for small to medium sized businesses** to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities, take part in training and professional development, and undertake capital works.  
  
Eligible businesses and organisations can apply for grants from **9:00am (AEST) on 26 March 2020** online via [melbourne.smartygrants.com.au](https://melbourne.smartygrants.com.au/).  
  
On 18 March 2020, the City of Melbourne [announced](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/Pages/Economic-stimulus-package-in-response-to-COVID-19.aspx) a local **$10 million economic stimulus package**to keep Melburnians in jobs and support city businesses affected by COVID-19. Measures include:

* A virtual Business Support Summit at Melbourne Town Hall in partnership with the Victorian Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Government representatives, Victoria’s Chief Health Officer and Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
* Up to $1 million for training and support and up to $500,000 in grants to support businesses to develop e-commerce and online services
* Implementing a Business Concierge Service that will provide one on one advice and support to Melbourne businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19
* Halving rent for eligible tenants in Council owned buildings for three months
* Opportunities to deploy casual and part-time staff to enhance city cleanliness and amenity
* Developing a Rates Hardship Policy for consideration by the end of March 2020.

**UPDATE: QUEENSLAND STIMULUS MEASURES**  
  
On 24 March 2020, the Queensland Government [announced](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/24/palaszczuk-government-unveils-4-billion-package-to-support-health-jobs-households-and-queensland-businesses) a **$4 billion package**to support health, jobs, households and Queensland businesses. The package incorporates an additional **$2.5 billion into protecting jobs and businesses**. Measures include:

* Refunding two months' worth of payroll tax for small, medium and large-sized businesses specifically impacted by COVID-19
* Offering a payroll tax break for three months for small and medium-sized businesses
* Deferring payroll tax for a further six months for small and medium-sized businesses
* **$500 million** to assist workers who lose their job or income and to help them find jobs in vital industries such as health care, agriculture, food production, transport, cleaning and mining
* Waiving liquor licencing fees for venues that have had to close
* Providing rent relief for businesses who rent premises from the state government
* Providing sole traders, small and medium-sized businesses a **$500 rebate** on their power bill for 2020.

The Queensland Government has also launched an [online portal](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/employing/payroll-tax/lodging/coronavirus-tax-relief) for businesses to apply for payroll tax relief.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA JOBS RESCUE PACKAGE**  
  
On 26 March 2020, the South Australian Government [announced](https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/$1-billion-stimulus-package-to-save-sa-jobs,-businesses) a **$650 million Jobs Rescue Package - which brings the state’s total economic response to $1 billion**- to help save South Australian jobs and support key industries and local businesses. Measures in the stimulus include:

* **A $300 million Business and Jobs Support Fund**to support individual businesses and industry sectors directly affected by COVID-19
* **A $250 million Community and Jobs Fund**to support community organisations, sporting, arts and recreational bodies, non-profit organisations as well as some industry sectors, whose operations have been impacted by COVID-19
* 6-month waiver for all businesses with an annual payroll (grouped) up to $4 million
* Waiving payroll tax from April to September for eligible businesses
* Deferral of land tax payments for 6 months for individuals and businesses with outstanding quarterly bills in 2019-20
* Waiving liquor licence fees for 2020-21 for those hotels, restaurants, cafes and clubs forced to close due to new social distancing restrictions
* A once-off payment of **$500** and bringing forward the 2020-21 ‘Cost of Living Concession’ for households who are receiving the Centrelink JobSeeker Payment, assisting those who are unemployed or lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY JOBS RESCUE AND RECOVERY**  
  
On 23 March 2020, the NT Government [announced](https://nt.gov.au/news/2020/economic-stimulus) a **$50 million Small Business Survival Fund** to deliver grants to help keep businesses alive, even when they have to shut. Further details will be announced shortly.  
  
On 25 March 2020, the NT Government [launched](http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/mediaRelease/32122) the [**Territory Jobs Hub**](https://nt.gov.au/industry/support-for-business/programs-and-initiatives/territory-jobs-hub) platform to connect Territory employers with Territory jobseekers who have been affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

**QUICK LINKS TO STATE AND TERRITORY ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGES**  
  
The following economic stimulus packages in response to COVID-19 have also been announced:  
  
**New South Wales**  
  
The New South Wales Government [announced](https://www.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/health-boost-and-economic-stimulus/) a **$2.3 billion economic stimulus package** on 17 March 2020.  
  
**Victoria**  
  
The Victorian Government [announced](https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/economic-survival-package-to-support-businesses-and-jobs/) a **$1.7 billion economic survival and jobs package** on 21 March 2020.   
  
**Queensland**  
  
The Queensland Government [announced](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/18/queensland-government-to-assist-arts-sector-through-covid19-crisis) **$8 million in funding relief for the arts sector** on 18 March 2020.  
  
The Queensland Government has also [established](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/17/palaszczuk-government-offers-500m-in-loans-to-support-workers-in-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus) a **$500 million concessional loan facility** and will [extend](https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/revenue-and-taxation/) the **coronavirus payroll tax deferral** to all businesses across the state.  
  
**Western Australia**  
  
The West Australian Government [announced](https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/COVID-19-economic-response-Relief-for-businesses-and-households.aspx) a **$607 million economic stimulus package** on 16 March 2020.  
  
**South Australia**  
  
The South Australian Government [announced](https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/unprecedented-response-and-economic-stimulus-to-drive-sa-jobs,-economy-in-wake-of-bushfires,-coronavirus2) a **$350 million economic stimulus package** on 11 March 2020.  
  
**Tasmania**  
  
The Tasmanian Government [announced](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial_statement_covid-19_response_measures) a **$420 million economic stimulus package** on 17 March 2020.  
  
**Australian Capital Territory**  
  
The ACT Government [announced](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2020/initial-economic-survival-package-to-support-territory-economy) a **$137 million economic stimulus package** on 20 March 2020.  
  
**Northern Territory**  
  
The NT Government [announced](http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/mediaRelease/32101) a **$65 million economic stimulus package** on 18 March 2020.