

Live Music and Entertainment Industry

5 Point Re-Opening Plan

The Australian live music and entertainment industry is worth \$16bn to the national economy. Operating nationally and internationally it includes large and small businesses, sole traders and employs 90,000+ FTE workers. From stadiums, to pubs, clubs, bars and nightclubs, festivals and events, indoor and outdoor, our industry is core to Australia's cultural heart and is a driver of local and national economic activity. Australia is a music powerhouse with enormous export potential.

Local, national and international performances and tours take time to organise, are logistically complicated and involve navigating a myriad of Federal, State, Territory and local government legislation and regulations - and that was before COVID.

The Live Music and Entertainment industry is heavily and immediately impacted by:

- a) Lockdowns
- b) Border closures
- c) Capacity restrictions; and
- d) Inconsistent application of state and national policies.

The above impacts will continue for the foreseeable future, undermining any remaining confidence and capacity in future planning, forcing artist and entertainment businesses to close and forcing workers to find alternative employment or welfare.

The closure of venues, threat to confidence and loss of skilled workers places the industry at risk of being unable to trade out of the impacts of COVID-19 and rebuild on its own.

In proactively and positively addressing the above impacts, the Live Music and Entertainment industry have created and agreed to a 5 Point Re-Opening Plan.

Critical to **survival** and **future confidence** in rebuilding the **capacity** of our industry we urgently call on Federal, State, Territory, and Local authorities to engage with our industry and act.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE CRITICAL TO RE-OPENING THE LIVE AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY:

1. Build **confidence** and **capacity** by establishing a Business Insurance Program for current and future live music and entertainment events.
2. Recognise musicians, event professionals and staff as **Essential Workers** where employment requires travel within and between states and territories.
3. **Best Practice state and territory based 'COVID safe' policies** across all like indoor and outdoor events, including sport, music and theatre.
4. Ensure live music and industry event sole traders and businesses are eligible and able to apply for all government Covid-19 Financial Assistance **Wage Subsidy** support packages.
5. Continue to provide **crisis support** through SUPPORT ACT, tailored one-off grants to provide targeted support, and ensure existing relief packages support impacted sole traders, contractors and music businesses.

THE LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY WILL BE **OPEN** WHEN VENUES AND EVENTS ARE ABLE TO OPERATE AT CAPACITY.

Finally, the industry would welcome innovative and future proofing reform that will help put a floor under the loss of income and transform the industry for success now and in a post COVID-19 world.