



Supporting Australia's Creative Economy

February 2021

The Government announced around \$800 million of additional funding for the arts and screen sectors in 2020. Of this, a total of around \$700 million has been announced in response to COVID-19:

- \$27 million from the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund
- \$250 million JobMaker Plan for the Creative Economy
- \$400 million Location Incentive boost over seven years
- \$22.9 million for national cultural institutions revenue support.

This targeted support to the arts, collections and screen sectors in response to the pandemic has been provided on top of support through JobKeeper, JobSeeker and Cashflow Payments.

On the most recent figures (2017–18), cultural and creative activity contributed around \$115.2 billion to Australia's economy, equivalent to 6.3 per cent of GDP. Prior to the pandemic, around \$33 billion was spent each year in Australia on cultural tourism. This significant level of activity is driven by around 645,000 Australians employed in the cultural and creative industries.

Targeted financial Government investment is stimulating and supporting businesses in the cultural and creative sector to restart and build their long-term financial sustainability.

Crisis relief for regional arts

- \$10 million for the Regional Arts Fund to provide crisis relief and targeted support to organisations, artists and arts workers that are critical to delivering the arts to communities in regional and remote areas.
- This investment is allowing Regional Arts Australia to support artists, arts workers and small-to-medium entities outside Australia's metropolitan centres to be adaptable and productive throughout this period of crisis, in response to the needs of their communities.
- It is also assisting them to develop new ways of working and establish new networks and resources for communities.
- Projects demonstrate community need and respond to the requirements over coming months to provide relief now, as well as recovery later, from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Funding was delivered through the Government's Regional Arts Fund in 2019–20.

Indigenous visual arts

- \$7 million to the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program to support Indigenous art centres and art fairs during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.
- Direct payments are to IVAIS-funded Indigenous art centres and IVAIS-funded art fairs to maintain operations and employment levels, ensuring that they continue to support artists and their communities.
- Payments of up to \$85,000 have been made to each IVAIS-funded Indigenous art centre, spread across 2019–20 and 2020–21. Payments of up to \$70,000 have been made to each IVAIS-funded Indigenous art fair in 2020–21.

Support Act—crisis relief to artists, crew and music workers

- \$10 million to the performing arts industry charity Support Act to enable it to provide immediate crisis relief to artists, crew and music workers affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Support Act is the only Australian charity delivering crisis relief services for people who work in the Australian music and broader arts industry who are experiencing ill health, injury, or a crisis that affects their ability to work.
- Assistance from Support Act is providing emergency support to musicians, artists, technicians, sound engineers, roadies and other support workers in the live performance industry who have been affected by the shutdown of venues, festivals and other events in response to COVID-19.

Seed investment

- \$75 million in grant funding to support new productions, festivals and events through the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund.
- RISE provides competitive seed funding for new productions, festivals and events to support the successful re-opening of Australia's creative and cultural sector.
- \$60 million in grant funding has been committed from the first batch of applications.
- RISE is helping to fill the gap by supporting theatre, dance, community and arts and cultural events—to partially substitute for capital lost due to the cancellation and rescheduling of events.
- RISE is helping arts and creative businesses to resume activity as quickly as possible and to transition to new ways of working.
- Grant amounts generally range from \$75,000 to \$2 million.

Kick-starting local screen production

- \$50 million Temporary Interruption Fund (TIF) for Screen Australia to support local film and television producers to restart filming.
- TIF will operate for 12 months commencing 1 July 2020 and is expected to support around 50 Australian productions with total production expenditure of almost \$500 million.
- TIF will support more than 11,000 individual jobs in a range of roles, including actors, writers, camera operators, set builders, electrical technicians, hair and makeup artists, accountants, caterers, designers, production managers and drivers.
- This measure is addressing the major roadblock for the Australian film and television industry to restart production.
- The production sector is reactivating, having successfully collaborated to develop and release practical COVID-19 Safe Work Protocols that are acclaimed internationally as best practice.

Show Starter Loan Scheme

- Support for up to \$90 million of lending to eligible arts and entertainment entities that have been adversely affected by COVID-19. Under the Scheme, the Government is guaranteeing 100 per cent of new loans taken out by eligible arts and entertainment businesses to deliver new productions or events for a live audience.
- Loan terms will be up to five years and are provided by the ANZ, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the NAB and Westpac.

- The Scheme is implemented through the Coronavirus Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Guarantee Scheme.

Supporting sustainability of sector-significant organisations

- \$35 million of funding through the COVID-19 Arts Sustainability Fund to support significant arts and culture organisations and infrastructure facing sustainability disruption due to COVID-19 and to protect jobs, training and creative experiences for Australians.
- This is being delivered in close consultation with the Australia Council, providing a safety net for established arts organisations that have a current and significant funding relationship with the Australian Government.
- This funding is for important and successful companies, large and small, from across all art forms—including dance, visual arts, Indigenous arts, music, literature and theatre.
- This measure addresses the impact on arts and creative industries that have been severely affected by the shutdown of venues and physical distancing measures.
- Sustainability funding will be delivered through existing funding agreements, specifically for organisations with a current Australia Council multi-year funding agreement, and by exception, other organisations with current and significant funding relationships with the Commonwealth.

Location Incentive

- \$400 million to attract large budget international film and television productions to Australia over the next seven years, building on the \$140 million announced in May 2018.
- The Location Incentive complements the Location Offset. It effectively increases the current Location Offset rate from 16.5 per cent to 30 per cent.
- This investment will establish an ongoing pipeline of work for Australia's screen production sector.
- The expansion of the Location Incentive is expected to attract foreign expenditure of up to \$3 billion and generate approximately 8,000 new employment opportunities for Australians each year in front of and behind the camera.

National cultural institutions

- \$22.9 million has been provided to Australia's national cultural institutions to support their work during COVID-19, in the context of significant falls in self-generated revenue such as ticket and shop sales, memberships and other commercial activities.
- Eight institutions will collectively receive \$22.9 million in 2020–21:
 - \$2.3 million for the Australian Film Television and Radio School
 - \$2.0 million for the Australian National Maritime Museum
 - \$2.5 million for the National Film and Sound Archive
 - \$4.5 million for the National Gallery of Australia
 - \$5.4 million for the National Library of Australia
 - \$3.9 million for the National Museum of Australia
 - \$1.2 million for the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, and
 - \$1.1 million for Screen Australia.
- This funding will ensure services and programs continue to be delivered to the Australian people.