

# Guide to Government COVID-19 Assistance for the Arts

## How to use this guide

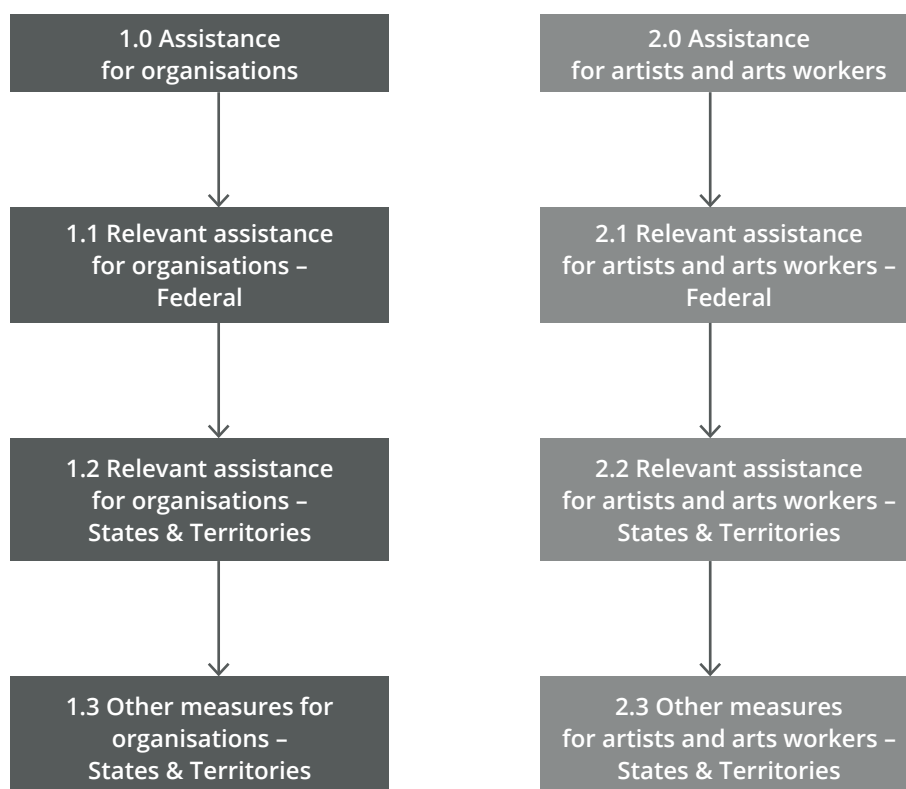
This guide sets out various assistance initiatives that are being provided by Federal and State/Territory governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to assist artists and arts workers, the guide is ordered as follows:

- measures applicable to arts organisations and individual artists;
- measures are then ordered by relevance to arts organisations and individual artists.

The intention is for this to be a “live” document, updated as circumstances change. Suggested additions and corrections are encouraged. Please email them to [info@sharpeadvisory.com.au](mailto:info@sharpeadvisory.com.au).

The flow of information is as follows:



The information in  
this guide is correct  
as of 29 May 2020.

Version 09

# 1.0 Assistance for organisations

## Key points:

- The Federal Government's JobKeeper program is now open and will assist arts organisations to continue to pay staff until September 2020.
- "The boosting cash-flow for employers" initiative is applicable to arts organisations. It is easy to access because payments will flow automatically as organisations submit their Business Activity Statements (BAS).
- Some state and territory governments are gradually releasing support programs. Details (where available) are provided at 1.2 below.
- Other stimulus measures, targeted at small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), may be applicable, depending on the organisation's circumstances. Check the list at 1.3 below.

## 1.1 Relevant assistance for organisations – Federal

JobKeeper Payment
<b>What is it?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A subsidy from the Government to employers to continue paying their employees.</li><li>- Employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020 until 27 September 2020.</li><li>- Employers will be eligible for the subsidy if their turnover will be reduced by more than 30 per cent relative to a comparable period a year ago (of at least a month). For charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC), the reduction in turnover required is 15 per cent.</li><li>- Not-for-profit entities (including charities) and self-employed individuals (businesses without employees) that meet the turnover tests that apply for businesses are eligible to apply for JobKeeper Payments.</li><li>- Eligible employees are employees who:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or re-hired);</li><li>- were employed by the employer at 1 March 2020;</li><li>- are full-time, part-time, or long-term casuals (a casual employed on a regular and systemic basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);</li><li>- are a permanent employee of the employer, or if a long-term casual employee, not a permanent employee of any other employer;</li><li>- are at least 16 years of age at 1 March 2020;</li><li>- are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder at 1 March 2020;</li><li>- were a resident for Australian tax purposes on 1 March 2020; and</li><li>- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer.</li></ul></li></ul>

How does it help?		
Provides \$1,500 per person to pay employees with.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You must pay the minimum \$1,500 before tax to each eligible employee per fortnight to claim the JobKeeper payment for that fortnight.</li> <li>- If your eligible employees earn less than \$1,500 per fortnight before tax, you must pay them at least \$1,500 for each fortnight to claim the JobKeeper payment. This is a 'top up' of their salary or wages and will ensure they remain eligible.</li> <li>- You cannot pay your employees less than \$1,500 per fortnight and keep the difference. You will not be eligible for the JobKeeper payment if you pay your nominated employee less than \$1,500 before tax per fortnight.</li> <li>- If your eligible employees earn more than \$1,500 per fortnight, you should continue to pay them their regular salary or wages. However, you will only receive \$1,500 for each eligible employee. Any amount you pay above \$1,500 per fortnight is not subsidised by the JobKeeper payment.</li> <li>- If an employee has been stood down after 1 March 2020, you can start paying them \$1,500 per fortnight to qualify for the JobKeeper payment for that employee.</li> <li>- If an employee ceased working for you after 1 March 2020, you can re-engage them and pay them at least \$1,500 per fortnight. You will only be eligible to claim for the fortnights after you re-engaged your employee.</li> <li>- All amounts are before tax (so you will still need to withhold tax from these payments).</li> <li>- First payments are due in May, so employers will need to ensure they can cash flow salary payments throughout April.</li> </ul>		
New rules are being introduced by the government with the intention to not require super guarantee to be paid on additional payments that are made to employees as a result of JobKeeper payments.		
How do people access it?		
Enrol at <a href="https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/enrol-for-the-jobkeeper-payment/">https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/enrol-for-the-jobkeeper-payment/</a>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> and <a href="#">ATO website</a>		

Boosting cash flow for employers		
What is it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash for small-to-medium enterprises and not for profit organisations with annual turnovers of \$50 million or less and have employees.</li> <li>- Organisations will receive an amount equal to 100% of the tax withheld on salaries and wages following lodgement of their March 2020 Business Activity Statement (BAS).</li> <li>- Two additional payments, equal to half of the total initial payment, will be made following the lodgement of their June 2020 and September 2020 BASs.</li> <li>- The timing and amounts of payments differ for organisations which lodge BASs monthly.</li> <li>- Total minimum amount payable across all payments is \$20,000. Total maximum amount payable is \$100,000.</li> </ul>		
How does it help?		
Frees up cash for spending on staff wages and/or other operational costs.		
How do people access it?		
Credits are automatically applied by the ATO through the activity statement system.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Short to medium term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		

Supporting apprentices and trainees		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A wage subsidy of 50% of their apprentice's or trainee's wages paid during the period 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.</li> <li>- Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer that employs that apprentice.</li> <li>- Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee (\$7,000 per quarter).</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Assists organisations with the cost of employing apprentices or trainees.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Employers can register for the subsidy from early April 2020, with an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) provider.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, if they employ apprentices or trainees	Moderate	Short to medium term
<b>Further information:</b>		
Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		
The Department of Education, Skills and Employment website: <a href="http://www.dese.gov.au">www.dese.gov.au</a>		
Australian Apprenticeships website: <a href="http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au">www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au</a>		

Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A range of initiatives to ease pressure on businesses in financial distress.</li> <li>- The most relevant for arts organisations is that directors (in this case, board members) will be temporarily relieved of their duty to prevent insolvent trading for six months.</li> <li>- Other initiatives include allowing more time for businesses to respond to demands from creditors and temporary flexibility in the Corporations Act 2001 to provide targeted relief for companies from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
The temporary change in directors' responsibilities relieves directors of personal liability that would otherwise be associated with the insolvent trading.		
It will assist board members in decision making to help organisations trade through the crisis with the aim of returning to viability when the crisis has passed.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Automatically applied.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for board members of arts organisations	Moderate	Medium to long term
<b>Further information:</b> Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		

## 1.2 Relevant assistance for organisations – States & Territories

### NSW

Rescue and Restart package <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>The \$50 million Rescue and Restart package will be delivered in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Funding available now to enable NSW not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations to hibernate temporarily.</li> <li>– Funding available in the coming months to enable NSW not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations to restart operations after the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Funding will be available to NSW not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations across the State on a case by case basis.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to assist with operational costs.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Contact Create NSW by emailing <a href="mailto:sector.support@create.nsw.gov.au">sector.support@create.nsw.gov.au</a>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Create NSW website</a>		

Creative Kids Digital Small Business Grant		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>The Creative Kids Digital Small Business Grant can support registered Creative Kids Providers to develop, produce, curate, and present online content for school-aged children and young people, for which Creative Kids vouchers can be redeemed.</p> <p>Grants up to \$5,000 are available for project expenses, including equipment, to support digital and online skills development and the delivery of online arts and cultural program.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to assist with the transition to online delivery of services.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="#">Create NSW website</a> . Applications close 6 November or before if funds are expended.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Low	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Create NSW website</a>		

### VIC

Strategic Investment Fund		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>A \$13 million Strategic Investment Fund which will boost support to almost 100 non-government arts and cultural organisations with a focus on small to medium arts organisations including festivals; theatres and performing arts companies; museums and galleries.</p> <p>The fund will help organisations to stabilise, continue their operations and keep people employed, commission local artists to develop new works, and deliver programs for their communities.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to assist with operations and programming.		

How do people access it?		
Creative Victoria will contact eligible organisations directly with details in the week commencing 27 April 2020.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">Creative Victoria website</a>		

Sustaining Creative Workers		
What is it?		
<p>A further \$2 million has been added to this \$2.2 million initiative will offer quick response grants for Victorian-based independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least five years of professional experience.</p> <p>Grants of \$5,000 will be available for individuals, and \$10,000 for micro-organisations and businesses. An additional \$2,500 in access funding will be available for Deaf and Disabled creatives, and Disability-led organisations.</p>		
How does it help?		
Direct funding to support creatives, across all creative disciplines to continue to work in their field, adapt to change, research and develop projects, develop their product or skills, and/or connect with new audiences or markets.		
How do people access it?		
Apply at <a href="#">Creative Victoria website</a> . Applications open 30 April 2020 and close when the total funding pool is exhausted. Note: If you are based in a regional area, apply through <a href="#">Regional Arts Victoria website</a> .		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – need to be a micro-organisation	Moderate	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">Creative Victoria website</a>		

## TAS

Additional arts organisations funding and operational measures		
What is it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Organisations currently on a single year funding package or those in the final year of agreements under the Arts Tasmania Organisations Program will have these contracts extended for another year.</li> <li>– Additional competitive funding will also be made available for arts organisations that will support additional employment and cultural activity. This will be open to organisations based in Tasmania that are not already receiving support through Arts Tasmania's Organisations (multi-year), Cultural Heritage Organisations, Cultural Heritage Organisations (multi-year) or those in receipt of annual funding extension. (Organisations in receipt of administered funding from the Tasmanian Government (including the Theatre Royal Management Board) are not eligible to apply for support package funds)</li> <li>– As part of Arts Tasmania contracts with funded clients, 10 per cent of funds are withheld until acquittals have been received, processed and accepted. This 10 per cent will now be released early.</li> <li>– Temporary suspension of repayment of current low-interest loans and loans made under the COLLECT Art Purchase Scheme.</li> </ul>		
How does it help?		
Funding extension for organisations under the Arts Tasmania Organisations Program and competitive funding to support arts organisations not currently receiving funding under the Arts Tasmania Organisations Program.		
How do people access it?		
Apply via <a href="http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding">www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding</a> . Applications close Monday, 6 July 2020.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High for Tasmanian arts organisations	High	Short to medium term
Further information: <a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>		

## NT

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program		
What is it?		
\$200,000 funding to help establish an online presence, including the capacity to develop online content, establish e-commerce platforms, ensure business continuity and allow for remote operations.		
How does it help?		
Direct emergency financial assistance.		
How do people access it?		
TBC		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Northern Territory Government website</a>		

## WA

Art Gallery of WA \$1.5 million COVID support program <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span>		
What is it?		
A \$1.5 million support package for Western Australian artists during the COVID-19 emergency. Developed by the Art Gallery of WA Board and the Art Gallery of WA Foundation.		
How does it help?		
Direct funding for individuals and organisations.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All living Western Australian artists represented in the State Art Collection will receive \$2,000 towards creating an online State Art Collection.</li> <li>- Independent and art centre-based Aboriginal artists will share up to \$525,000 through a targeted acquisition program to purchase existing works from up to 15 independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and from 25 Aboriginal art centres.</li> </ul>		
How do people access it?		
The program will be administered through the <a href="#">Art Gallery of WA</a>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – targeted at Aboriginal art centres in WA	Moderate	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">WA Government media release</a>		

### 1.3 Other measures for organisations

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
COVID-19 SME Guarantee Scheme: loans of up to \$250k, unsecured, 3yr terms, 6-month repayment holiday.	Federal	Moderate	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
\$750 rebate for small business owners to help with power bills	ACT	Low – could apply to ACT arts organisations.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT government press release</a>
Six-month waiver on payroll tax for hospitality, creative arts and entertainment industries (leased premises)	ACT	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT government press release</a>

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Payroll tax discounts, waivers and threshold rise	NSW	Low – most arts orgs do not pay payroll tax.	Moderate	Short term	<a href="#">Revenue NSW</a>
Deferral of rents for six months for commercial tenants with less than 20 employees and not-for-profits in all Government properties	NSW	Moderate – may apply to NSW arts organisations.	High	Short term	<a href="#">Treasury Press Release</a>
Community service grants	City of Sydney	Moderate – need to be in City of Sydney.	Moderate	Short term	<a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>
Payroll tax refunds and deferrals	QLD	Low – most arts orgs do not pay payroll tax.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Business Queensland</a>
COVID-19 Jobs Support Loans: low interest loans of up to \$250,000 for carry on finance with an initial 12-month interest free period	QLD	Moderate – could be an option for arts orgs comfortable with taking on debt.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Business Queensland</a>
Small and medium business power bill relief	QLD	Moderate – available to businesses which consume less than 100,000 kilowatt hours (kWh).	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Business Queensland</a>
City of Adelaide – Support for business – Rent waivers	SA	Low – must be a lessees of a council-owned building or a community lessee of a council-owned building	Low	Short term	<a href="#">City of Adelaide website</a>
Temporary stop on notices to vacate and suspension of rent increases	TAS	High for renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">Consumer, Building &amp; Occupational Services Website</a>
Payroll Tax Waivers	TAS	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Commercial tenancies relief scheme	VIC	High for commercial renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">Business Victoria Website</a>
Payroll tax refunds	VIC	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.		Short term	<a href="#">Revenue Victoria</a>
City of Melbourne – Rates Financial Hardship Policy	VIC	Low – could impact orgs renting council owned buildings. Full refunds on cancelled bookings at Council properties or facilities.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">City of Melbourne website</a>
Rent relief for small businesses and not-for-profits	WA	Low – could impact orgs in WA.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">WA government</a>
\$2,500 credit for Synergy and Horizon Power customers	WA	Moderate – for eligible business customers.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">WA government</a>



Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Payroll tax grant/threshold move/deferrals	WA	Low – payroll grant is for orgs with payroll of \$1m+ and most arts orgs do not pay payroll tax.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Small Business WA</a>
City of Perth – Relief and Rebound Plan	WA	Low – could impact orgs renting council owned buildings. Full refunds on cancelled bookings at Council properties or facilities.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">City of Perth website</a>

## 2.0 Assistance for individual artists and arts workers

### Key points:

- The Federal Government's JobKeeper program should provide financial support to many individual artists and arts workers. However, many questions about eligibility in specific circumstances, particularly for casual workers remain.
- Income support payments have been boosted and two additional \$750 payments are also available.
- Some state and territory governments have additional and/or extended grant opportunities for individual artists. See 2.2 below.

### 2.1 Relevant assistance for individual artists and arts workers – Federal

JobKeeper Payment		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A subsidy from the Government to employers to continue paying their employees.</li> <li>- Employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020 until 27 September 2020.</li> <li>- Employers will be eligible for the subsidy if their turnover will be reduced by more than 30 per cent relative to a comparable period a year ago (of at least a month). For charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC), the reduction in turnover required is 15 per cent.</li> <li>- Not-for-profit entities (including charities) and self-employed individuals (businesses without employees) that meet the turnover tests that apply for businesses are eligible to apply for JobKeeper Payments.</li> <li>- Eligible employees are employees who:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or re-hired);</li> <li>- were employed by the employer at 1 March 2020;</li> <li>- are full-time, part-time, or long-term casuals (a casual employed on a regular and systemic basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);</li> <li>- are a permanent employee of the employer, or if a long-term casual employee, not a permanent employee of any other employer;</li> <li>- are at least 16 years of age at 1 March 2020;</li> <li>- are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder at 1 March 2020;</li> <li>- were a resident for Australian tax purposes on 1 March 2020; and</li> <li>- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Provides \$1,500 per person to pay employees with.		
Refer to the JobKeeper information in section 1.1 for details.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Enrol at <a href="https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/enrol-for-the-jobkeeper-payment/">https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/enrol-for-the-jobkeeper-payment/</a>		
<b>Relevance for arts organisations</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Speed of Impact</b>
High	High	Short term
<b>Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> and <a href="#">ATO website</a></b>		

Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package		
<b>What is it?</b>		
Fee relief for parents with children in child care.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From Monday 6 April 2020, the Government will make weekly payments to early childhood education and care services in lieu of the Child Care Subsidy and the Additional Child Care Subsidy.</li> <li>- Payments will be made until 28 June 2020 and families will not be charged fees during this time.</li> <li>- In addition, up to and including 5 April 2020, services that are open can now waive gap fees for children who were absent from care. This can go back as far as 23 March 2020</li> </ul>		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Automatically applied. Ends on 28 June 2020.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for those with children in child care	High	Short term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">Department of Education, Skills and Employment website</a></b>		

Income Support for Individuals		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The temporary expansion of eligibility to income support payments and the establishment of a new, time-limited COVID-19 supplement of \$550 per fortnight.</li> <li>- Payable to people on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jobseeker Payment (and all payments progressively transitioning to JobSeeker Payment; those currently receiving Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, Sickness Allowance and Wife Pension)</li> <li>- Youth Allowance for job seekers</li> <li>- Youth Allowance for students</li> <li>- Austudy for students</li> <li>- ABSTUDY for students</li> <li>- Parenting Payment</li> <li>- Farm Household Allowance</li> <li>- Special Benefit</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Expanded access: Jobseeker Payment and Youth Allowance Jobseeker criteria will provide payment access for permanent employees who are stood down or lose their employment. The expanded eligibility applies to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sole traders</li> <li>- the self-employed</li> <li>- casual workers</li> <li>- contract workers who meet the income tests as a result of the economic downturn due to the COVID-19. This could also include a person required to care for someone who is affected by the COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Reduced means testing.</li> <li>- Reduced waiting times.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct income for artists and arts workers who have lost their income streams. Expanded eligibility is particularly applicable to sole traders, self-employed and contract workers in the arts.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink">https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink</a>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">Centrelink Website</a></b>		

Payments to support households		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two separate \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.</li> <li>- The first payment will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders at any time from 12 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 inclusive.</li> <li>- The second payment will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders on 10 July 2020.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct income for artists and arts workers who have lost their income streams.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink">https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink</a>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Low	Short term
<b>Further information: Treasury <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a></b>		

Temporary early release of superannuation (voluntary)		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eligible individuals will be able to apply to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation before 1 July 2020.</li> <li>- They will also be able to access up to a further \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 for approximately three months (exact timing will depend on the passing of the relevant legislation).</li> <li>- Applicants must be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unemployed; or</li> <li>- eligible to receive a job seeker payment, youth allowance for jobseekers, parenting payment, special benefit or farm household allowance; or</li> <li>- on or after 1 January 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; made redundant; or</li> <li>&gt; have working hours reduced by 20 per cent or more; or</li> <li>&gt; in the case of sole traders — their business was suspended or there was a reduction in their turnover of 20 per cent or more.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct income for artists and arts workers who have lost their income streams.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directly to the ATO through the myGov website: <a href="http://www.my.gov.au">http://www.my.gov.au</a></li> <li>- Individual artists should seek professional financial advice before proceeding.</li> </ul>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate (depends on level of superannuation)	High	Short term
<b>Further information: Centrelink: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a></b>		

Triple J Unearthed, Level Up Grants <span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">CLOSING SOON</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>As part of ABC's Fresh Start Fund, Triple J is offering fifteen different financial grants to help musicians. There will be five grants offered to one artist from each of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bands (indie/rock/roots/folk)</li> <li>- Solo (indie/pop/singer songwriter)</li> <li>- Hip hop (rap and R&amp;B)</li> <li>- Producers/Dance/Electronic artists</li> <li>- Heavy artists (metal/hardcore/punk)</li> </ul> <p>Two grants are on offer for two different Indigenous artists and eight grants for regional artists. One grant will be awarded to an artist from each state and territory.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to assist with producing and recording music.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="#">Triple J Unearthed</a> . Closing date 7 June 2020.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">Triple J Unearthed T&amp;Cs</a>		

## 2.2 Relevant assistance for individual artists – States & Territories

### QLD

New stART Grant Program <span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>A new \$500,000 StART grant program aimed at providing support for Queensland's independent creative practitioners including artists, producers, designers, technicians and other arts workers to support all segments of the independent sector, across multiple art-forms and communities, whose work has been and continues to be impacted by closure of venues and social distancing rules.</p> <p>Applicants can access up to \$3000 to support ideation, preparation, planning and collaboration activities focussed on future creative opportunities during COVID recovery phase.</p> <p>Funding will be distributed through the Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) and other Arts Queensland funded small to medium organisations and allocated to each region on a population basis.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to support the ideation, preparation, planning and collaboration activities for QLD-based creative practitioners.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Register your interest by emailing <a href="#">Arts Queensland</a> .		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Arts Queensland website</a>		

## NSW

Small Project Grants (COVID-19) <span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">CLOSING SOON</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
A further \$350,000 is being made available to this program and re-aligned to address artists coping with COVID-19 impacts. This quick response grant mechanism offers grants from \$500 to \$5,000 towards projects. Create NSW's Small Project Grants have been redefined to address the current situation of social distancing and the cancellation of non-essential travel.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="#">Create NSW website</a> . Closing date 30 June 2020 or until the grant allocation is expended.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Medium term
<b>Further information:</b> <a href="#">Create NSW website</a>		

## VIC

Music Industry Support Package		
<b>What is it?</b>		
This \$4 million Music Industry Support Package initiative includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$2.5 million for the development of new work which can be released now or be ready to launch or tour when restrictions are lifted.</li> <li>- \$1.5 million for training, professional and business development, and mentoring for music industry workers, including the many who work behind the scenes and have been heavily impacted.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to assist with creating work, training and development.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
TBC		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Medium term
<b>Further information:</b> <a href="#">Victorian Government media release</a>		

Victorian Government Public Sector Employee Support		
<b>What is it?</b>		
This initiative helps casual public sector employees that are ineligible for the federal government's JobKeeper scheme by providing the same level of support. Public sector workers can access their usual fortnightly payments of up to \$1500 before tax, up until the end of September, provided they are happy to be redeployed to other public sector roles where demand for more resources is high, such as healthcare.		
It will be available to workers regardless of their age, whether they are an Australian Citizen or not and regardless of their length of service.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Potential temporary work for casual public sector arts workers.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply through the <a href="#">Jobs and Skills Exchange program</a> .		

Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Victorian Government media release</a>		

Sustaining Creative Workers <span style="color: #0070C0;">UPDATED</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<p>A further \$2 million has been added to this \$2.2 million initiative will offer quick response grants for Victorian-based independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least five years of professional experience.</p> <p>Grants of \$5,000 will be available for individuals, and \$10,000 for micro-organisations and businesses. An additional \$2,500 in access funding will be available for Deaf and Disabled creatives, and Disability-led organisations.</p>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to support creatives, across all creative disciplines to continue to work in their field, adapt to change, research and develop projects, develop their product or skills, and/or connect with new audiences or markets.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="#">Creative Victoria website</a> . Applications open 30 April 2020 and close when the total funding pool is exhausted. Note: If you are based in a regional area, apply through <a href="#">Regional Arts Victoria website</a> .		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">Creative Victoria website</a>		

## NT

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program		
<b>What is it?</b>		
The \$200,000 Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program will be facilitated through the Indigenous visual arts peak bodies, Desert and Arnhem Northern Kimberley Artists, to provide intensive support to Aboriginal art centres, artists and arts workers.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Details not yet released.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
To be advised. Details not yet released.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High for Indigenous artists	Moderate	Short term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Northern Territory Government website</a>		

Territory Arts Project		
<b>What is it?</b>		
Grants will support existing and emerging artists in the creation of new artist works and skills development.		
Up to \$20,000 per applicant for arts projects.		
Up to \$15,000 per applicant for emerging artists (less than five years professional practice).		

How does it help?		
Direct funding for projects.		
How do people access it?		
Applications for Round 1 have closed. Round 2 commences June 2020.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	Moderate	Medium term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Northern Territory Government website</a>		

## WA

Art Gallery of WA \$1.5 million COVID support program <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span>		
What is it?		
A \$1.5 million support package for Western Australian artists during the COVID-19 emergency. Developed by the Art Gallery of WA Board and the Art Gallery of WA Foundation.		
How does it help?		
Direct funding for individuals and organisations.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All living Western Australian artists represented in the State Art Collection will receive \$2,000 towards creating an online State Art Collection.</li> <li>- Independent and art centre-based Aboriginal artists will share up to \$525,000 through a targeted acquisition program to purchase existing works from up to 15 independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and from 25 Aboriginal art centres.</li> </ul>		
How do people access it?		
The program will be administered through the <a href="#">Art Gallery of WA</a>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – targeted at Aboriginal artists and WA artists in the State Art Collection	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">WA Government media release</a>		

## 2.3 Other measures for individual artists and arts workers

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Electricity Relief for Households and Businesses (\$200 rebate for households)	QLD	Moderate	Low	Short term	<a href="#">QLD government fact sheet</a>
Temporary stop on notices to vacate and suspension of rent increases	SA	High for renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">Consumer and Business Services website</a>
Cost of living concession (\$500 increase)	SA	Moderate	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Treasury SA</a>
Rebates and rates freezes	ACT	Low – minor concessions for individuals.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT Treasury fact sheet</a>
Six month moratorium on residential tenancy evictions during COVID-19	NSW	High for renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">NSW Fair Trading website</a>



Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Free preschool	NSW	Moderate	Low	Short term	<a href="#">NSW government</a>
Community service grants	City of Sydney	Moderate – need to be in City of Sydney.	Moderate	Short term	<a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>
Temporary stop on notices to vacate	TAS	High for renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">Consumer, Building &amp; Occupational Services Website</a>
One-off emergency relief payments	TAS	Low – payments of \$250-\$1k for people (including casual workers) who need to self-isolate.	Low	Short-term	<a href="#">Tasmanian Government fact sheet</a>
Coronavirus (COVID-19) rent relief grant	VIC	High for renters	High	Medium term	<a href="#">Housing Victoria website</a>
Freeze on household fees and charges	WA	Low – minor concessions for individuals.	Low	Short-term	<a href="#">WA government press release</a>

### 3.0 Useful links

#### General advice and support

FAQs for artists affected by COVID-19 from [Arts Law](#)

Summary of support initiatives compiled by the [Indigenous Art Code](#)

A database of informal aid groups for artists state by state collated by [Australian Mutual Aid Database](#)

An article on COVID-19 and your rights at work from the [Media, Arts & Entertainment Alliance \(MEAA\)](#)

[A Facebook group for Australian Arts amidst COVID-19.](#)

Artist opportunities from Australian Performing Arts Market ([APAM](#)).

Opportunities to obtain philanthropic funding for not-for-profit organisations through [Australian Communities Foundation](#) in response to COVID-19.

#### Mental health resources

An article on how to cope with COVID-19 from online arts magazine [ArtsHub](#).

[Support Act](#) is a charity delivering crisis relief services to artists, crew and music workers that impacts their ability to work including mental health resources through their wellbeing helpline.

[Arts Wellbeing Collective](#) is an organisation promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in the performing arts industry.

Free mental health webinars for Australian entertainment industry workers from [Entertainment Assist](#).

#### Crisis management

Tips for small business to prepare for COVID-19 from [CPA Australia](#).

#### Music industry management and support

[I Lost My Gig Australia \(ILMG\)](#) is an initiative of the Australian Festivals Association (AFA) and the Australian Music Industry Network (AMIN). ILMG was established as a short-term quick response data capture project to quantify

the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australia's live event and entertainment industries. It is also a hub for resources, support and information.

Bandcamp is a platform for artists and fans to discover new music and directly support the artists who make it. They are running a fundraiser and offer support and advice to support artists.

Support Act is a charity delivering crisis relief services to artists, crew and music workers that impacts their ability to work.

Sound Of Silence (SOS) is a national initiative from a Music Industry Taskforce that represent our diverse music industry to bring immediate relief for an industry at the existential brink. Their aim is to provide crisis relief services to artists, roadies and music workers directly affected by COVID-19.

PPCA is a non-profit organisation that provides licences to Australian businesses to play recorded music in public. and is currently offering one off advances for PPCA registered artists.

## **Visual arts and galleries management and support**

An article on survival tips for art galleries from online arts magazine ArtsHub.

An advisory note from the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA).

The Artists Benevolent Fund run by NAVA to assist artists.

## **Performing arts management and support**

The Actors Benevolent Fund run by Actors Benevolent Fund of NSW to assist actors.

## **Arts surveys on the impact of COVID-19**

### **Artists and Creatives of Colour (CaLD)**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ2JA6vXhe8yPj\\_qJOmoeFY453ltv2i0wFQw8WnkpaAQWkQA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ2JA6vXhe8yPj_qJOmoeFY453ltv2i0wFQw8WnkpaAQWkQA/viewform)

### **Dance**

<https://ausdanceqld.org.au/impactsurvey>

### **First Nations Musicians & Performers**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFISLmZTdQIONGTAundDBzITEF6ylhYFIRaVFrhBeojv3cdQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR07liGbCt7acMtP9QWdc2aCBB9oG-LM38U3aLXuhKI-ATr--kQ42aF-Y5U>

### **Media, Arts & Entertainment Industry**

<https://www.meaa.org/campaigns/coronavirus/>

### **Music**

<https://ilostmygig.net.au/>

### **Screen (WA)**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WASlCOVID19>

### **Venues**

<https://paca.org.au/coronavirusimpact/>

<https://keepourvenuesalive.com/research-forms/>

### **Visual Arts**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAVA-COVID-19-Impact>

### **COVID-19 Audience Outlook Monitor**

The Audience Outlook Monitor is exploring how audiences feel about attending events in the future. Phase One results now available.