

# Guide to Government COVID-19 Assistance for the Arts

## How to use this guide

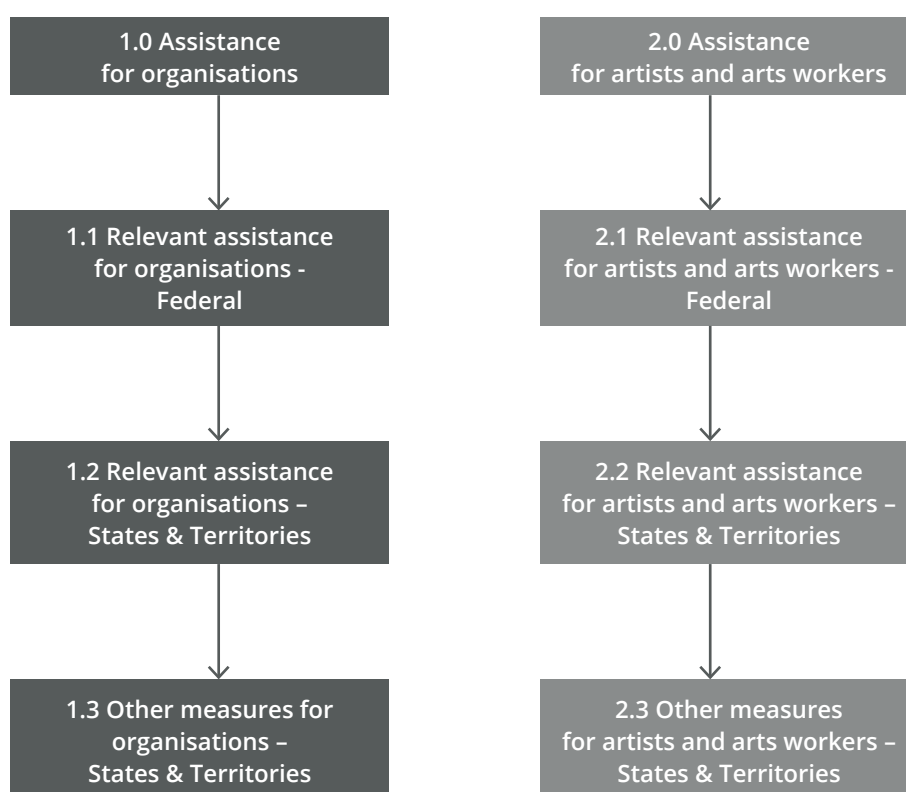
This guide sets out various assistance initiatives that are being provided by Federal and State/Territory governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 03 April 2020.

Version 02

# 1.0 Assistance for organisations

## Key points:

- “The boosting cash-flow for employers” initiative is the most applicable to arts organisations. It is easy to access because payments will flow automatically as organisations submit their Business Activity Statements (BAS).
- The Federal Government’s new JobKeeper package will allow arts organisations to continue to pay staff over the next six months. Please note that the legislation for this initiative is still to pass through Parliament.
- 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 (Legislation Pending) <span style="color: green;">NEW</span>
<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, for a maximum period of 6 months.</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).</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 basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);</li><li>- are at least 16 years of age;</li><li>- are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, a Protected Special Category Visa Holder, a non-protected Special Category Visa Holder who has been residing continually in Australia for 10 years or more, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder; and</li><li>- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>How does it help?</b>
<p>Provides \$1,500 per person to pay employees with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If the employee is earning more than \$1,500 a fortnight, you can:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to pay them at their current salary level (including super), using the \$1,500 to help meet the costs of this, or</li><li>- You can increase their salary by \$1,500 a fortnight. In this case, you have the option to pay super or not on the additional \$1,500.</li></ul></li><li>- If the employee is earning less than \$1,500 a fortnight then you pay them at least \$1,500 a fortnight. You have the option to pay super or not on the additional amount to raise their salary to \$1,500.</li><li>- If the employee is currently earning nothing (e.g. you let them go earlier in March and have rehired them under this scheme) then you will pay them \$1,500 per fortnight. You have the option to pay super or not this payment.</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>

How do people access it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers can register their interest in applying for the JobKeeper Payment via <a href="http://ato.gov.au">ato.gov.au</a> from 30 March 2020.</li> <li>Subsequently, eligible employers will be able to apply for the scheme by means of an online application.</li> <li>The first payment will be received by employers from the ATO in the first week of May.</li> <li>Eligible employers will need to identify eligible employees for JobKeeper Payments and must provide monthly updates to the ATO.</li> </ul>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</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		
What is it?		
<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>		
How does it help?		
Assists organisations with the cost of employing apprentices or trainees.		
How do people access it?		
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

**Further information:**

Treasury: [Fact Sheet](#)

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment website: [www.dese.gov.au](http://www.dese.gov.au)

Australian Apprenticeships website: [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

### Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

#### What is it?

- A range of initiatives to ease pressure on businesses in financial distress.
- 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.
- 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.

#### How does it help?

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.

#### How do people access it?

Automatically applied.

Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for board members of arts organisations	Moderate	Medium to long term

Further information: Treasury: [Fact Sheet](#)

## 1.2 Relevant assistance for organisations – States & Territories

### NSW

#### Small business grants (City of Sydney) NEW

##### What is it?

This \$2 million grant program will allow businesses to:

- modify their operating model to produce income and supply products
- develop online and e-commerce capabilities
- do training and professional development to better prepare for return to business activities
- invest in capital works to help the business benefit from the economic recovery.

##### How does it help?

Direct funding for operational and business capabilities.

##### How do people access it?

Call 02 9265 9333 to discuss with City of Sydney

Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – need to be in City of Sydney	High	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>		

Initial support for business, cultural and creative industries and our community (City of Sydney) <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
City of Sydney will:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- waive fees for Health and Building compliance activities</li> <li>- review rents in City of Sydney premises for tenants that require support case-by-case and in consultation with these tenants</li> <li>- waive standard contractual terms and return booking and banner fees to people and organisations who have booked venues and are now unable to proceed with their bookings)</li> <li>- waive footway dining, market permit and filming fees on the grounds of hardship</li> <li>- provide a flexible approach to parking and other infringements.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Waiving of operational expenses, fees and charges.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Call 02 9265 9333 to discuss with City of Sydney		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – need to be in City of Sydney	Low	Medium term
Further information: <a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>		

## QLD

Additional and extended arts funding rounds		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Companies that are current recipients of the 2017-2020 Organisations Fund will receive a further twelve months' funding at current levels to December 2021.</li> <li>- Increase to the amount of the Queensland Arts Showcase Program (QASP) round to \$2m.</li> <li>- Funding caps for QASP Arts Ignite and Arts Impact projects raised to \$80,000.</li> <li>- Increased the funding caps for QASP Arts Illuminate projects raised to \$120,000.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Additional funding for projects.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply at <a href="https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding">https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding</a>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for organisations in Queensland	High	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Arts Queensland website</a>		

Rental waiver for tenants based in Queensland Government Arts facilities		
What is it?		
Arts Queensland will waive rental payments through to December 2020 for tenants based in Queensland Government Brisbane-based arts facilities Festival House and Judith Wright Arts Centre.		
How does it help?		
Reduction of expenses.		
How do people access it?		
Applicable arts organisations to speak to Arts Queensland.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for organisations in Queensland Government-owned Arts facilities	High	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Queensland government press release</a>		

## SA

COVID-19 Arts Grants		
What is it?		
Expressions of Interest for Arts Organisations Collaboration Grants: up to \$100,000 for major arts and cultural organisations and 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. Five grants will be approved.		
How does it help?		
Additional funding for projects.		
How do people access it?		
Apply at <a href="#">Department of the Premier and Cabinet website</a>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High, for organisations in SA	High	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Department of the Premier and Cabinet website</a>		

## VIC

Business Support Fund		
What is it?		
A fund to support the hardest hit sectors, including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment, and retail.		
How does it help?		
To be advised. Details not yet released.		
How do people access it?		
To be advised. Details not yet released.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	To be advised. Details not yet released.	To be advised. Details not yet released.
Further information: <a href="#">Victorian Premier's press release</a>		

Quick response business grants (City of Melbourne)
What is it?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to \$5000 for investing in online and e-commerce activities.</li> <li>- Up to \$2000 for training and professional development.</li> <li>- Up to \$10,000 for capital works projects (matching dollar-for-dollar) to adapt to changing conditions.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding for business improvement activities.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="#">Smartygrants</a> .		
<b>Relevance for arts organisations</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Speed of Impact</b>
Moderate – must be in working and regularly presenting in the City of Melbourne	Moderate	Short term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">City of Melbourne website</a></b>		

<b>Quick response arts grants (City of Melbourne)</b>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$4000 for individual artists or small arts organisations to develop new work, or for digital presentation of artistic works and performances.</li> <li>- Be an artist or artists practicing (which could be a small arts organisation), working and regularly presenting in the City of Melbourne.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding for projects.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="#">Smartygrants</a> .		
<b>Relevance for arts organisations</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Speed of Impact</b>
Moderate – must be in working and regularly presenting in the City of Melbourne	Moderate	Short term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">City of Melbourne website</a></b>		

## TAS

<b>Arts and Screen Digital Production Fund <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span></b>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
Funds to support screen practitioners, artists and arts organisations whose work has been cancelled, postponed or disrupted by COVID-19, grants of up to \$50 000 for organisations.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Funding for projects to enable the arts and screen sectors to work together.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding">www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding</a> . Applications close Monday, 4 May 2020.		
<b>Relevance for arts organisations</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Speed of Impact</b>
High for Tasmanian arts organisations	High	Short term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a></b>		

Additional arts organisations funding and operational measures <span style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<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>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
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.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding">www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding</a> . Applications close Monday, 4 May 2020.		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High for Tasmanian arts organisations	High	Short to medium term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a></b>		

## WA

Event Cancellation Relief for Arts, Sports and Community Groups <span style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support will be available for not-for-profit arts, sports and community organisations that are experiencing financial hardship as a result of a cancelled event resulting from COVID-19.</li> <li>This program will consider cancellation costs, loss of revenue and incurred and/or committed costs related to events that delivered broad community benefit.</li> <li>Lotterywest will be working directly with sports, arts and community groups to deliver this program in collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries and Venueswest.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding to alleviate financial hardship.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
TBA		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High for WA organisations	High	Medium term
<b>Further information: <a href="#">Lotterywest website</a></b>		



## 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	Unclear – loan scheme is for “small-to-medium businesses”, eligibility for not-for-profits unclear.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Additional measures to free up flow of credit	Federal	Low – most arts organisations do not take out commercial loans.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Instant asset write off increase to \$150m	Federal	Low – most arts organisations will not be making major capital purchases.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Backing business investment (accelerated depreciation of assets)	Federal	Low – most arts organisations will not be making major capital purchases.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Assistance for severely affected regions and sectors (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Aviation Industry and PAYG Instalment variations)	Federal	Low – no arts sectors targeted, PAYG instalment variations only impact organisations that pay income tax.	NA	NA	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
<b>NEW</b> Export Market development Grant (EMDG) extension	Federal	Moderate – arts organisations who market overseas may be eligible for full refund on eligible expenses.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">AusTrade website</a>
Clubs Diversification Fund	ACT	Nil – specifically for clubs.	NA	NA	<a href="#">ACT government press release</a>
Commercial rates rebate for SMEs	ACT	Low – could apply to ACT organisations which own their property.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT government press release</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>
\$20m spend on infrastructure projects and maintenance	ACT	Low – unless some of it is arts infrastructure.	Unclear	Long term	<a href="#">ACT government press release</a>
Waiving of fees for food business registration and liquor licencing fees and outdoor dining fees	ACT	Low – arts orgs would need to have a liquor licence or outside dining.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT government press release</a>

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Liquor license fees reductions and waivers	ACT	Low – only useful to those with venues with liquor licences	Low	Short term	<a href="#">ACT government</a>
\$250 million + to bring forward maintenance on public assets	NSW	Low – fund targets social housing and crown land fencing.	NA	NA	<a href="#">NSW government press release</a>
\$250 million to employ additional cleaners of public infrastructure	NSW	Unclear – may be relevant to some public arts institutions run by NSW govt.	Low	NA	<a href="#">NSW government press release</a>
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>
\$500 million to bring forward capital works and maintenance	NSW	Unclear – may be relevant to some public arts institutions run by NSW govt.	Low	Long term	<a href="#">NSW government press release</a>
Waiving fees and charges for small business	NSW	Unclear – Details not yet known. Targeting for bars, cafes, restaurants and tradies, but could be applied more widely.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">NSW government press release</a>
<b>NEW</b> 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>
<b>NEW</b> Working for NSW fund: \$1 billion Working for NSW fund to sustain business, create new jobs and retrain employees	NSW	Unclear – details TBA.	Unclear	NA	<a href="#">Treasury Press Release</a>
<b>NEW</b> A small business, creative and community concierge service (help accessing City of Sydney services)	City of Sydney	Moderate – need to be in City of Sydney.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Fast tracking capital works	City of Sydney	Low	Low	NA	<a href="#">City of Sydney website</a>
Freeze on government fees and charges	NT	Unclear – Details not yet known.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</a>
Payroll tax exemption extended	NT	Low – most arts orgs do not pay payroll tax.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</a>
Business Improvement Grant	NT	Medium – needs plans to undertake physical renovations to property, plus matched funding.	Medium	Long term	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</a>

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Immediate Work Grant	NT	Medium – needs plans to undertake physical renovations to property, plus matched funding.	Medium	Long term	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</a>
Small Business Survival Fund	NT	Low – targeting retail, hospitality, tourism and entertainment businesses.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</a>
Territory Tourism marketing campaign	NT	Unclear – details not yet announced.	Unclear – details not yet announced	Unclear – details not yet announced	<a href="#">NT Department of Trade, Business &amp; Innovation</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>
Expanded Economic and Business Growth Fund	SA	Unsure – lack of detail.	Unsure	Unsure	<a href="#">SA Premier's press release</a>
Infrastructure maintenance projects	SA	Unsure – lack of detail, but targets including road and hospital upgrades, new tourism infrastructure.	Unsure	Unsure	<a href="#">SA Premier's press release</a>
<b>NEW</b> City of Adelaide – Support for business	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>
Targeted Small Business Grants Program for Apprenticeships and Traineeships: \$5,000 grants	TAS	Nil – targets tourism, hospitality, building and construction, and manufacturing industries.	Nil	Nil	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Payroll Tax Waivers	TAS	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Youth Employment Scheme (payroll tax rebate for young people)	TAS	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Human Resource and Industrial Relations Assistance: \$80,000 to the Tasmania Chamber of Commerce and Industry to provide advice to businesses on the implications of these workplace issues	TAS	Low – of help to those letting go of staff.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Liquor license fees reductions and waivers	TAS	Low – only useful to those with venues with liquor licences	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Interest Free Business Loans for Small Business	TAS	Low - of interest free loans to businesses in the hospitality, tourism, seafood and exports sector (but some cultural tourism orgs may be eligible).	Medium	Medium term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Interest Free Loans for Local Government: interest free loans to upgrade tourism assets	TAS	Low - some Local Government Areas with cultural tourism orgs may be eligible.	Medium	Long term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
Government Maintenance Program: maintenance of public buildings	TAS	Low - not specifically targeting arts but some orgs resident in public buildings might benefit.	Medium	Long term	<a href="#">Tasmania government fact sheet</a>
<b>NEW</b> Additional Screen Development Fund: funding cap increases and funding through the existing Industry Development Program	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Additional Screen Tasmania decision round	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Changed Screen Tasmania payment terms	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
Payroll tax refunds	VIC	Low – most arts orgs would not pay payroll tax.		Short term	<a href="#">Revenue Victoria</a>
Liquor licence waiver	VIC	Low – only useful to those with venues with liquor licences.	Low	Short term	<a href="#">Revenue Victoria</a>
Commercial tenants in government buildings can apply for rent relief	VIC	Moderate – could impact orgs renting Vic govt buildings.	High	Short term	<a href="#">Victoria Premier's press release</a>
<b>NEW</b> 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>

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>
<b>NEW</b> Lotterywest Crisis & Emergency Relief	WA	Low – for organisations providing crisis & relief services.	Low	NA	<a href="#">Lotterywest website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Changed Lotterywest grant terms	WA	Moderate	Low	Medium term	<a href="#">Lotterywest website</a>
<b>NEW</b> 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. Please note that the legislation for this initiative is still to pass through Parliament.
- Artists and arts workers have increased access to income support. See 2.1 below.
- 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 (Legislation Pending) <b>NEW</b>
<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, for a maximum period of 6 months.</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).</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 basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);</li><li>- are at least 16 years of age;</li><li>- are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, a Protected Special Category Visa Holder, a non-protected Special Category Visa Holder who has been residing continually in Australia for 10 years or more, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder; and</li><li>- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>How does it help?</b>
<p>Provides \$1,500 per person to pay employees with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If the employee is earning more than \$1,500 a fortnight, you can:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to pay them at their current salary level (including super), using the \$1,500 to help meet the costs of this, or</li><li>- You can increase their salary by \$1,500 a fortnight. In this case, you have the option to pay super or not on the additional \$1,500.</li></ul></li><li>- If the employee is earning less than \$1,500 a fortnight then you pay them at least \$1,500 a fortnight. You have the option to pay super or not on the additional amount to raise their salary to \$1,500.</li><li>- If the employee is currently earning nothing (e.g. you let them go earlier in March and have rehired them under this scheme) then you will pay them \$1,500 per fortnight. You have the option to pay super or not this payment.</li><li>- All amounts are before tax (so you will still need to withhold tax from these payments).</li></ul>

How do people access it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individuals don't need to do anything; the onus is on the employer to register for the scheme.</li> <li>- However, individuals can talk to their employer about their plans for registering for the scheme.</li> <li>- Individuals with multiple employers will need to nominate a "primary employer" from which they will receive the payment. (You can't get it from more than one employer).</li> <li>- Many questions remain about the treatment of casual employees. These employees should talk to their employer about their plans for registering for the scheme and also await further details.</li> <li>- If individuals do not qualify for the JobKeeper payment, they should consider applying for the JobSeeker payment from Centrelink.</li> </ul>		
Relevance for arts organisations	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		

Income Support for Individuals		
What is it?		
<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>		
How does it help?		
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.		
How do people access it?		
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
Further information: Centrelink <a href="#">Website</a>		

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
Further information: Treasury <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		

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
Further information: Centrelink: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		



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

### ACT

Arts Sector Funding		
What is it?		
\$500,000 earmarked for grants to the arts sector.		
How does it help?		
Funding of up to \$10,000 per artist will be available for Canberra artists to support arts development and the sustainability of their arts practices.		
How do people access it?		
Through a simplified application process.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	To be advised. Details not yet released.	To be advised. Details not yet released.
Further information: <a href="#">artsACT</a>		

### QLD

Additional and extended arts funding rounds		
What is it?		
Increased the amount of the Individuals Fund round to \$500,000		
How does it help?		
Additional funding for projects.		
How do people access it?		
Apply at <a href="https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding">https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding</a>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Arts Queensland website</a>		

### SA

COVID-19 Arts Grants		
What is it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Creative Endeavour: Quick Response Grants for Independent Artists: grants of \$5000 to \$10,000 for independent, professional artists, to undertake professional development or continue creative practice.</li> <li>– Innovating Practice: Quick Response Grants for Independent Artists: grants of \$5000 to \$10,000 for independent, professional artists, towards the purchase, hire or upgrade of technology and equipment to enable them to share new and existing work via digital and virtual platforms.</li> </ul>		
How does it help?		
Additional funding for projects.		
How do people access it?		
Apply at <a href="#">Department of the Premier and Cabinet website</a>		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">Department of the Premier and Cabinet website</a>		

## VIC

Quick response arts grants (City of Melbourne)		
<b>What is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$4000 for individual artists or small arts organisations to develop new work, or for digital presentation of artistic works and performances.</li> <li>– Be an artist or artists practicing (which could be a small arts organisation), working and regularly presenting in the City of Melbourne.</li> </ul>		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Direct funding for projects.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="#">Smartygrants</a> .		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
Moderate – must be in working and regularly presenting in the City of Melbourne	Moderate	Short term
Further information: <a href="#">City of Melbourne website</a>		

Working for Victoria Fund		
<b>What is it?</b>		
A \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund in consultation with the Victorian Council of Social Services and Victorian Trades Hall Council. The fund will help workers who have lost their jobs find new opportunities, including work cleaning public infrastructure or delivering food.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Potential temporary work for arts workers who have lost their jobs.		
<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
Moderate	Moderate	To be advised. Details not yet released.
Further information: <a href="#">Victorian Premier's press release</a>		

## TAS

Arts and Screen Digital Production Fund <span style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
Funds to support screen practitioners, artists and arts organisations whose work has been cancelled, postponed or disrupted by COVID-19, grants of up to \$10,000 for individuals.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Funding for projects to enable the arts and screen sectors to work together.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding">www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding</a> . Applications close Monday, 4 May 2020.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>		

Tasmanian Contemporary Music Fund <span style="color: #0070C0;">NEW</span>		
<b>What is it?</b>		
Grants of up to \$15,000 to support Tasmanian contemporary musicians whose engagements have been cancelled due to COVID-19 to record music and music videos for digital distribution and promotion.		
<b>How does it help?</b>		
Funds to help replace income lost through cancellations.		
<b>How do people access it?</b>		
Apply via <a href="http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding">www.arts.tas.gov.au/funding</a> . Applications close Monday, 4 May 2020.		
Relevance for artists and arts workers	Potential Impact	Speed of Impact
High	High	Short term
<b>Further information: Treasury: <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a></b>		

## 2.3 Other measures for individual artists and arts workers

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Temporarily reducing superannuation minimum drawdown rates	Federal	Low – impacts retirees with account-based pensions.	Low	NA	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Reducing social security deeming rates	Federal	Low – impacts those on the aged pension.	Low	NA	<a href="#">Treasury Fact Sheet</a>
Rebates and rates freezes	ACT	Low – minor concessions for individuals.	Low	Short-term	<a href="#">ACT Treasury Website</a>
Utilities Concession	ACT	Low – additional electricity rebate for concession card holders.	Low	Short-term	<a href="#">ACT Treasury Website</a>
Home Improvement Scheme	NT	Low – matched funding for physical improvement to land/building.	Low	NA	<a href="#">Business NT 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>
<b>NEW</b> Additional Screen Development Fund: funding cap increases and funding through the existing Industry Development Program	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Additional Screen Tasmania decision round	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
<b>NEW</b> Changed Screen Tasmania payment terms	TAS	Moderate – relevant to screen organisations.	Moderate	Medium term	<a href="#">Arts Tasmania website</a>
Freeze on household fees and charges	WA	Low – minor concessions for individuals.	Low	Short-term	<a href="#">WA government press release</a>

Scheme	Gov	Relevance for arts organisations	Potential impact	Speed of impact	Link
Energy Assistance Payment (EAP) doubled to \$600	WA	Low – targets to support vulnerable Western Australians, including pensioners.	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 \(MEAA\)](#)

Boost: fundraising program for independent artists and arts organisations through the Australian Cultural Fund from [Creative Partnerships Australia](#).

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

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

### 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

An example of how Circa managed the crisis from online arts magazine [ArtsHub](#).

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

### Music industry management and support

Article on fundraising for musicians from online arts magazine [ArtsHub](#).

[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.

## **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/COVID-19-survey/>

### **Music**

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

### **Screen (QLD)**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7KYN7PX>

### **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>

## **Statements from funding bodies**

A statement from the [Federal Office for the Arts](#)

A statement from the [Australia Council for the Arts](#)

Advice on support from [Arts Queensland](#)

Advice on support from [Create NSW](#)

Advice on support from [Department of Premier & Cabinet SA](#)

Advice on support from [Creative Victoria](#)