

There are a number of Government and industry initiatives that have been recently announced to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. Outlined below is a summary of some key initiatives which may apply to artists, labels and those who work in the music industry.

- JobKeeper and JobSeeker Payments
- State and city initiatives for music
- Australia Council
- PPCA and APRA AMCOS
- Support Act

PPCA will continue to advocate on behalf of the music community to Government and keep you updated on any new initiatives that may be of assistance.

JobKeeper and JobSeeker Payments

JobSeeker (Centrelink) payment offers financial help if you're between 22 and Age Pension age and looking for work. There are changes to the claims process and your obligations due to coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes changes to reduce waiting periods, the income test, what you need to provide, and your obligations. [Find out more here.](#)

The **JobKeeper** payment is intended to provide wage subsidies to businesses that are significantly affected by COVID-19.

Under the JobKeeper Payment, businesses impacted by the coronavirus will be able to access a subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Affected 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.

Importantly many sole traders (including artists with an ABN), contractors and not-for-profits may be eligible for payment.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has published a JobKeeper Payment Quick Employer Guide that answers some of the more common questions about JobKeeper. [Find out more here.](#)

You can register your interest at the ATO website. [Find out more here.](#)

State and city initiatives for music

Several states and cities have announced arts and music focussed initiatives to support musicians and music industry business and workers. This is in addition to other state and federal stimulus packages.

South Australia

The South Australian Government announced that Arts South Australia has reconfigured its available grant funds to assist artists and organisations to respond to immediate pressures. Total funding of \$1.5 million will be allocated in the coming weeks. [Find out more here.](#)

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government announced new funding of \$1.5 million and operational measures of over \$2 million to support the individuals and organisations leading Tasmania's renowned cultural sector. [Find out more here.](#)

ACT

The ACT Government announced Homefront - a survival package for Canberra's artists and creatives. Funding of up to \$10,000 per artist will be available to support arts development and the sustainability of their arts practices over the next 6-9 months. A total of \$500,000 will be available. [Find out more here.](#)

Western Australia

The Arts U-15k grant program offers up to \$15,000 for artists and creative industry professionals to deliver a one-off project or a program of activity.

The program supports the development and growth of a vibrant sector that promotes the participation and active engagement of Western Australian communities in high quality arts and cultural experiences.

[Find out more here.](#)

City of Sydney

The City of Sydney announced the first stage of its COVID-19 Business, Arts and Creative Support package. The \$25 million package includes a range of measures, which will be in place for an initial period of six months.

[Find out more here.](#)

City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne announced \$2 million in financial assistance for artists or small organisations to develop new work, or for digital presentation of artistic works and performances. [Find out more here.](#)

Australia Council

The Australia Council announced a repurposing of all available uncommitted funds from this financial year to immediately respond to the COVID-10 crisis. The Resilience Fund has been created to provide immediate relief to Australian artists, arts workers and arts organisations and support their livelihoods, practice and operations. Approximately \$5M has been redirected across three new programs: Survive, Adapt, Create. [Find our more here.](#)

PPCA and APRA AMCOS

PPCA has introduced an emergency special policy to provide one-off advances ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 for PPCA Registered Artists suffering hardship as a result of the unanticipated decimation of the live music sector. The amount available to them will be based on their average earnings under the PPCA Direct Artist Distribution Scheme over the last three years. Note that PPCA has directly contacted eligible artists to advise them of this opportunity. [Find out more here.](#)

APRA AMCOS has announced it is bringing forward its November live performance royalty payout to May. For members who submitted 2019 performance reports, and were paid in the November 2019 distribution, APRA AMCOS will use the same data to pay you this May, rather than in November. [Find out more here.](#)

Support Act

Support Act continues its work in supporting the music industry. Its focus is on artists, crew and music workers who are unable to access Government benefits due to eligibility or other issues (and to help them gain access where possible); and to continue to support those who are suffering financial hardship as a result of injury, ill-health or a mental health issue (and current Mental Health plan).

Support Act Wellbeing Helpline - 1800 959 500

Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511

Lifeline – 13 11 14