

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Inquiries Question on Notice

Communications and the Arts

Challenges and opportunities within the Australian live music industry

IQ24-000038

Division/Agency: DIV - Office for the Arts

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 3 (05 June 2024)

Topic: Live Music Australia fund – measuring social or economic impact of delivered funding

Brian Mitchell asked:

CHAIR: Once the funding has been delivered, is there any measure of how it's going in terms of economic impact or social impact?

Dr Arnott: We do collect that information. We haven't consolidated the information for the whole program because, as you said, it's still going through its final round. I'll ask the team what might be possible to prepare for the committee, but we do have access to that information. It might be insightful for you.

Ms TEMPLEMAN: I know in 2022 the program guidelines were expanded to include event insurance and administration costs, so that is a particular area of interest. I'll highlight that one.

Dr Arnott: Yes. That's a result of what we were hearing back then—what insurance costs were—so, through consultation at that time, the minister decided that we would expand the eligibility to include those costs. I can probably get that information about how many applicants have actually asked for help with insurance costs as well, which might be helpful.

Answer:

The Live Music Australia program opened in 2020-21 and ran for 4 years until 2023-24. It was an open competitive grants opportunity, delivered through 8 application rounds (2 rounds per financial year). Live music festivals were supported in 2 targeted rounds (Rounds 5 and 7).

Overall, the program received 2,562 applications and awarded 533 grants, delivering a total of \$20 million in funding.

To date, 349 grants have been acquitted and the following data is drawn from those acquittals.

Of the 2,562 applications received:

- \$47,534,277 in funding was sought to support artist fees/wages
- \$31,463,934 in funding was sought to upgrade venue infrastructure or equipment
- \$239,900 in funding was requested for insurance costs (noting this expenditure category only became eligible under the program guidelines in 2022-23 for Round 5 onwards, and that applicants could only request insurance relating to the project or event costs)

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Of the 534 grants awarded:

- 751 venues (including festival stages) were supported
- 40 involved partnerships with another business or organisation
- \$9,840,366 in funding was provided to support artist fees/wages
- \$6,895,088 in funding was provided to upgrade venue infrastructure or equipment
- \$65,120 funding was provided to contribute to insurance costs (noting this expenditure category only became eligible under the program guidelines in 2022-23 for Round 5 onwards, and that applicants could only request insurance relating to the project or event costs)

Of the 349 grants acquitted to date, applicants reported:

- 11,218 performances were staged
- 2,146,490 people attended performances (total audience numbers)
- 11,823 acts/bands were provided performance opportunities
 - of those acts, 30,314 individual artists were supported
- 6,435 personnel were employed (not including artists)
- 81 grant activities incorporated professional development of venue staff
- 87% of grantees reported that the grant 'fully met or exceeded expectations'