

To the members of the committee, hello!

My name is Leon Pratt and I have played double bass for 39 years. When I first started playing professionally in the 1990's I would expect \$100 for a one off gig \$50 for a regular gig \$100/ call for an orchestral gig and more for a concert performance (such as accompanying an international performer for two or three concerts e.g Festival of Perth).

- I took ten years away from full time performance around 2005 - 2015, working in the goldfields, as the pay for musicians hadn't increased enough to maintain a standard of living. I still did the occasional recording or performance.

I am now turning 50, married, living in Perth , playing music and doing a day job.

- \$150 - 200 / gig seems ridiculously low.

All I ask is that the federal and state governments encourage the arts through payments to artists who regularly perform for the community as a means of subsidising music performance.

- Please do not give money to clubs, pubs and councils as the musicians won't see much of it.
- Please do not make it a long winded grants process with layers of bureaucracy - every time someone performs, they record that for tax purposes already, so an online portal will do (upload the invoice). By all means have fines for misuse, but please just increase the pay without breaking already stretched venues.

- Some suggestions below:

A \$250 minimum payment for musicians for live performance, which will ensure that a foundational culture of music is built to support local musicians, music practice and local music culture. The minimum fee, now recognised by all State governments (except Tasmania), is the only viable minimum fee standard for non-employee musicians. The rate was developed in 2021 through extensive musician and industry consultation and with reference to the Live Performance Award.

- The Union highlights the need for higher and more secure incomes and jobs for musicians in all forms of music work, including performance, recording and education. This will mitigate the need for short-term targeted crisis funding and serves to recognise the inherent public, social and community value of the work that musicians do.

- Industry bodies and organisations must work together to initiate a process of developing an industry-level agreement, which applies to the commercial sector, to ensure implementation of the minimum fee and other credible standards for musicians and creative workers. This will also ensure that appropriate standards of behaviour are set, understood and policed to restore the social licence of the music industry and ensure the safety of working musicians.
- Renew audience confidence through strategic investment, government and artist-led initiatives focusing on the promotion of live music and Australia's vibrant music cultures. In particular, we need to favour measures that will foster greater access, participation and engagement in music activity within communities, facilitate demand and sustain employment for musicians and other music workers.

Sincerely,

Leon Pratt (the Hairy Bassist) 😊