



**APRA
AMCOS**

15 September 2021

**Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

LIVE PERFORMANCE FEDERAL INSURANCE GUARANTEE FUND BILL 2021

Dear Committee Secretary,

APRA AMCOS welcomes the opportunity to submit to the Committee's inquiry into the **Live Performance Federal Insurance Guarantee Fund Bill 2021**.

Australia's live music and entertainment sector is not just vital for the economy and jobs, it provides the beating heart of city-centres and regional areas as the nation recovers from latest lockdowns. It will rejuvenate CBD's and town centres and get people back to the experiences they miss the most.

We are a highly skilled workforce with thousands of businesses that continuously adapt to technological change. We contribute \$16 billion to the economy and are an asset that is a powerful driver of metropolitan and regional economies and export to the world. Every \$1 spent on live music circulates \$3 into the broader community.

The music sector fell off a cliff on 13 March 2020 when the Australian Government made the correct and prudent decision to shut the nation down. Without the ability for artists to play and venues to open around the country, the industry lost billions of dollars in revenue.

Eighteen months into this pandemic and the latest APRA AMCOS data shows national live music activity is at just 9 per cent of pre-COVID times. A survey through [I Lost My Gig](#) found that 28,000 gigs were cancelled nationwide over a four-week period from 1 July resulting in nearly \$84 million in lost income.

While there is talk about much of the economy starting to re-open once 80 per cent vaccination targets are reached, ongoing restrictions and snap lockdowns on large gatherings means our industry will continue to be held back from returning to work.

Without an intervention, the Australian music sector will continue to face uncertainty. The long-term cost to Federal, State and Territory Governments, the economy and the damage to our cultural infrastructure will be immense and long-lasting.

The majority of the four thousand plus venues that present live music across Australia are either closed or at reduced capacity with no certainty as to when a restart is likely or viable. There is no clear plan to ensure our sector's workers are going to be supported through this enforced hibernation.



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As seen by the recent [Vax The Nation](#) campaign, the Australian music industry is resilient, innovative and creative. It fights to stand on its own two feet and in normal circumstances it is largely self-sufficient. Yet these are not normal times, and it needs the support of all levels of Government to help it get to the other side of the crisis.

The industry is seeking:

1. a coordinated nation-wide package from Federal, State and Territory Governments for event disruption insurance that covers against COVID lockdown disruption, in order to give the industry certainty to commence planning live events in 2022.
2. a sustainability package to ensure the stabilisation and capacity of the industry, with a focus on a targeted wage subsidy or support package to retain the skills and get the industry through to

The adoption of a government-backed insurance scheme together with a sustainability package is key to provide certainty for the Australian live music and entertainment sector. Government backed insurance schemes and sustainability packages have already been rolled out in the UK, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Estonia. These schemes are a vote of confidence in the importance of live music and entertainment sector in rebuilding economies and communities.

We refer the Committee to the submission from the Live Music Office which includes a table of these schemes. In particular, we draw the Committee's attention to the German scheme which is seen as international best practice.

Yours Sincerely,

Dean Ormston
CEO
APRA AMCOS

Nicholas Pickard
Executive Director, Public Affairs
APRA AMCOS

APRA AMCOS - ABOUT

APRA AMCOS has been representing Australian songwriters, composers and publishers since 1926. With over 108,000 members across Australia and New Zealand, our membership includes the very best and brightest of established and emerging musical talent at home and around the globe. We administer rights on their behalf, supporting screen composers, songwriters and publishers in an industry that is a flagship of Australian culture and creativity, generating billions of dollars each year for the Australian economy.