



30 August 2021

The Hon. Martin Foley
Minister for Health
Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
By email: minister.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Mr Danny Pearson
Minister for Creative Industries
Level 5, 1 Macarthur Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002
By email: danny.pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Ministers,

Re: Victorian arts workers left stranded in NSW

As the union for arts and entertainment workers, the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (**MEAA**) writes to you seeking a meeting to discuss dozens of professional performers who are currently stranded in NSW with no way to return home safely.

These arts workers travelled to NSW to earn a living on various productions while they were allowed to do so. Because of border closures, they are now unable to return to their home state after the work they were contracted to do in NSW was completed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Their applications to return home have not been responded to or have been rejected without reason. They are now facing many more months of separation from their loved ones, with no job, income, or guaranteed accommodation.

All stranded workers are happy to quarantine and follow government orders on their return. We would urge the Victorian Government to explore avenues for home quarantine similar to the current arrangements in South Australia. We understand the need to keep Victorian residents safe but refusing to allow Victorian workers to return to their homes is having a severe impact on their mental health and financial circumstances and should not continue indefinitely.

More than 1500 people have signed [this petition](#) calling on the Victorian Government to allow exemptions so these performers can return to their homes.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this urgent issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rae
Director, Actors Equity, Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance

Adam Portelli
Regional Director, Victoria & Tasmania, Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance

📍 PO Box 723 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 ☎ 1300 656 513

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