

Minutes: Quarterly CGA/MEAA/Performer Representative meeting 15/10/2025

- Acknowledgement of Country – Nicholas Hope, MEAA

Presentation of Agenda questions:

- Yes/No campaign – any updates – possibility of standardised ‘job filled’ letter from CD’s? –

CGA response: CD’s advised they would encourage casting sites to use Yes/No functions. Also advised that actors can’t be told job is taken until contracts are signed: this can take months. Asked that if a decision is required because of another job, please phone and CD will confirm release or not.

In short – standardised letter not considered feasible. Yes/No still in process.

- Shorter first-round audition requirements for first-round self-tapes?

CGA responded that this was project dependent. Advised performers and representatives not to be concerned with technical aspects.

- Update on DOB requirements on wardrobe forms

CGA advised that ‘playable age’ often resulted in performers claiming excessive parameters.

Thea (president CGA) stated that age should not technically be asked and that CD’s had been asked to remove it on wardrobe forms unless legally necessary.

As an addendum: date-of-birth should not be required unless legally mandated, and may be in contravention of the Age Discrimination Act 2004.

No decision made in meeting. Requires follow-up.

- Holding the line on commercial rates – update from previous meeting

CGA Commercial Committee will be releasing a new clause addressing this issue shortly.

- **Any other business: summary of questions sent in with registration and responses received:**

- State of the industry - Are the CGA able to give insight on the number of projects they're seeing come through the pipeline, are they currently quoting a lot or waiting for the go button to be pressed on casting for film/TV projects?

Response: This question more applicable to SPA; general feeling that the industry is struggling, and recommendation that people follow and support the Local Content Quotas campaigns being run throughout the industry.

- What are we doing to reduce the 'non-union' castings (and under-cutting rates) on platforms like 'Star Now' and 'The Right Fit' ?

This question not raised in meeting due to oversight. In response here, though, MEAA advises that any jobs that undercut rates need to be reported to MEAA so they can follow up.

- Without minimums, commercial fees for main cast have dropped dramatically for the past decade. Does the CGA have any plans to recommend minimums in the near future?

MEAA response: Minimums do exist both in MEAA agreements and in Award. Commercial agreement is around \$52 per hour. What has dropped is usage rates, which are subject to negotiation; see above question on commercial rates.

- Does the MEAA have any specific set of ethical and moral standards or business guidelines to be shared with individuals starting up Agencies?

MEAA response: As a union for performers, MEAA Equity does not have specific MEAA guidelines for Agencies. MEAA has advice columns for performers seeking out agents. There are government guidelines on how agencies should operate, specifically in NSW and Queensland.

- The ongoing issue of in-room v self tape and I wonder how much success casting directors are having in convincing producers of the cost effectiveness and creative value of more in-room?

This question has been discussed before. CD's have addressed cost effectiveness and increased reach of self-tape for first round in light of reduced casting budgets. CD's advise they are open to in-room or Zoom auditions on request where possible.

- Also, what's their take on the current requests for foreign artists? More/less/same and what do they anticipate over the next year or two according to current trends.

This question did not get raised due to timing – the issue is contentious but potentially outside the scope of CD's and Performer Representatives to address in this meeting format.

- Remove the United States term of usage on casting.com

Response: this is outside our jurisdiction.

- There are currently several different casting sites that actors have to pay for to be submitted for jobs. Is there any likelihood in the future that this could be reduced to a smaller number/just have one without the risk of missing out on possible work? Instead of people spending hundreds a year to be on several different profiles.

Response: The Competition and Consumer Act 2010 prevents MEAA or CGA from stipulating the use of only one site. Advice was given in meeting to use the free level options available on most of the casting sites if you decide to be a member of all of them but cannot afford multiple 'profiles'.

CGA advised consulting the letter on their website regarding casting sites – see: [CGA-Letter-to-Actors-Final-Draft-27.07.23.pdf](#)

- Could Equity look into promoting a program of local pool quotas when productions apply for studio space?

MEAA Response: There are campaigns run by MEAA Equity in WA, SA and Queensland lobbying for local quotas; please do get involved.

CGA response: CD's do attempt to cast locally as it assists budget; there are also some quotas already in place in some states; however CD's are not the final decision makers in casting choices.

- Pushing harder than ever for local content quotas on streaming services should be one of Equity's top priorities especially if streaming services are looking to fill their platforms with AI generated content in future.

MEAA response: Local Content Quotas ARE a major priority for MEAA Equity. There is a strong lobbying focus on Content quotas and on AI regulation with a team hired specifically to deal with the latter, and representations sent to Canberra regularly to meet with politicians to push on both issues. Note: MEAA are currently carrying out an AI regulation campaign asking members to take part: please do.

- Do I as a new actor in the industry straight out of uni need to buy courses from casting directors to be taken seriously I keep getting advertised them

MEAA, CGA and Performer Rep. response: No, you don't need to buy courses to be taken seriously.

From the Chat:

- It's time MEAA reviewed recommendations on agent commission please. 10% does not cut it for all the expenses agents have.

MEAA response: Agent commissions are set by State Governments. In addition, MEAA is a union for performer members, and would not lobby for increased commission on performer wages.

In addition to this, MEAA adds that in Queensland and NSW it is against the law to charge more than 10% commission without a signed and agreed management contract that stipulates the extra fee. A copy of the NSW legislation follows:

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY ACT 2013 - SECT 5

Performer representative

5 Performer representative

In this Act, a

"performer representative" means a person who, for financial benefit, provides or agrees to provide one or more of the following services to a [performer](#) (whether or not the agreement also provides for other services to be provided)--

- (a) seeking or finding work opportunities for the [performer](#),
- (b) negotiating terms of an agreement for, and the conditions of, a [performance](#),
- (c) finalising arrangements relating to the payment of the [performer](#),
- (d) negotiating arrangements relating to the attendance of the [performer](#) at a [performance](#),
- (e) administering the agreement between the [performer](#) and an [entertainment industry hirer](#),
- (f) making arrangements for publicity attendances and related publicity responsibilities of the [performer](#),

but does not include a person who does so solely as an employee of any such representative.

AND:

Under Section 11 of the Entertainment Industry Act:

"A performer representative must not demand or receive a fee or other remuneration from a performer under an entertainment industry agreement that exceeds the capped amount, unless the agreement is an entertainment industry managerial agreement and the additional services under the agreement are provided."

The capped amount referred to in the Regulations is 10%, unless there is a separate 'management agreement' between the parties.

A management agreement is defined pursuant to Section 10 of the Entertainment Industry Act as follows:

(1) An "entertainment industry managerial agreement" is an entertainment industry agreement:

- (a) that is in writing, and

(b) under which the performer representative agrees to provide services in relation to the management of the reputation, career or career development of the performer that are in addition to the services referred to in section 5, and

(c) that fixes the fees payable by the performer in respect of the services specified in the agreement, and

(d) that includes an additional fee acknowledgement.

(2) An "additional fee acknowledgement" means an acknowledgement by the performer that:

(a) the performer understands that the written agreement will allow the performer representative to demand or receive fees or other remuneration that exceeds the capped amount, and

(b) the performer understands that a cooling-off period applies in respect of the agreement, and

(c) the performer representative has provided the performer with the information required to be provided under section 13.

Meeting closed. Some email responses brought up the need for more action/result-based agendas in the future. I will take this into account at next Quarterly meeting in January.