



The Hon. Tim Pallas
Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Industrial Relations
Level 4, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002

By Email: tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Treasurer

Support for workers in the Melbourne live entertainment, events and cultural services sector

We recognise that today's announcement of a seven-day lockdown is a necessary step to protect the health and safety of the community from COVID. However, we are concerned that our members, the majority of whom are casual, will face ongoing financial pressure as a result, which will lead to worsening mental health and in some circumstances may drive them from the sector.

Based on their experience of recovery from previous lockdowns, Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance ("MEAA") members working in Melbourne's critical entertainment sector fear that, while the lockdown is currently planned to last no more than seven days, their workplaces will take longer to recover due to the possibility of further targeted restrictions on indoor gatherings and hesitation from potential audiences to commit to buying tickets to events in the immediate aftermath of the lockdown.

Given that the Victorian Government's IR Framework is no longer in place for public sector venues, and the Federal government's JobKeeper scheme has likewise ended, workers at entertainment venues such as Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Recital Hall, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and others, will suffer lost wages for the period of the lockdown with the prospect of significantly reduced income for a longer period.

We seek your urgent assistance in providing wage support for these workers in affected venues.

As members have previously discussed with you, we are concerned that loss of income will force workers to find alternative employment, and consequently erode the skilled workforce that runs Melbourne's critical entertainment sector.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me on 0423 020 465 or kelly.wood@meaa.org.

Yours sincerely,

Kelly Wood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly".

Director, Entertainment, Crew and Sport
Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance