




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Creative Industries Jobs

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.34 am): It has been consistently made clear that public health and safety is the government's No. 1 priority during this global coronavirus outbreak. In addition, we are committed to supporting Queensland jobs. More than 80,000 Queenslanders work in the creative industry sector, and many of them support themselves gig to gig. Unfortunately for workers in the arts and creative sector, coronavirus will have a significant impact on their ability to work. These Queenslanders include performers, artists, designers, crew members, front-of-house staff and others who help make live performances, exhibitions and public events such memorable experiences. They are the independent artists, organisations and small to medium sized arts companies that so often push the boundaries of the arts.

Just weeks ago these same people—musicians, dancers, actors, performing and visual artists—came together to give their time and talents to fundraise in support of the victims of bushfires. They have done the same for those impacted by drought, floods and cyclones. That same sector now faces massive challenges. As social distancing rightly takes place, gigs have been cancelled and performance seasons and exhibitions have been postponed, and that means the loss of income for many workers.

Today I am announcing that more than \$8 million in funding relief measures are being made available to help many small to medium sized arts organisations pay their bills and keep people employed during the current health crisis. To provide certainty for the sector, companies that are currently recipients of the Organisations Fund will be guaranteed a further 12 months funding at current levels until December 2021. Arts Queensland is also suspending applications for the next four-year funding round in order to take pressure off these organisations to do long-term planning. For the next six months we are also waiving rental payments for tenants in Queensland government arts facilities. In addition, the government is working to find ways to support individual arts sector workers through our existing programs. In the coming weeks I will make further announcements about how we provide a response that supports workers with creative development and digital delivery.

The Palaszczuk government, through Arts Queensland, will continue to work with the sector to support organisations and arts workers to emerge from this public health crisis with strength and confidence.