

**INDEPENDENT ARTISTS**  
**SECTOR CONNECT SESSION SUMMARY**

MARCH 27th, 2020

AUSDANCE VIC

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Disclaimer: All information outlined in *Focusing on Independent Artists Sector Zoom in Summary* is not personal advice. This is general information as discussed in the zoom call. Please seek the appropriate legal advice before you implement any changes to your practice/business.

## **FOCUSING ON DANCE INDEPENDENT ARTISTS**

This session was led by Dr Katrina Rank with Fiona Hulands (Ausdance Victoria). Supported by Kate Denborough, Ausdance Victoria board member and Julie Dyson, Ausdance National Vice-President.

## **ATTENDEES**

30 registrations

18 attendees from Victoria, NSW, ACT and WA.

## **AUSDANCE VIC DISCUSSION**

### **Advocacy Update from Ausdance National:**

- Ausdance National signed a joint submission from 40 other organisations coordinated by NAVA to the Prime Minister
- Ausdance National represented dancers and the sector at Tony Burke' MP national roundtable and joined the discussions hosted by NAVA and AMPAG.
- Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, The Greens arts spokesperson has responded to the national statement.
- The network is communicating daily with other peak bodies and government
- Mental health is emerging as a major concern for dancers and the sector as preliminary findings from the survey emerge. NSW, VIC, and NT have had the most drastic impact on artist wages with the NT moving to zero income for the artists who responded since the health crisis.
- More than 50% of dancers and sector professionals who freelance have no other sources of income
- Ausdance notes the impact of the health crisis on Australian Indigenous people and communities who are most at risk affecting the continuation of knowledge. Response and relief for this specific need are urgent.
- There continues to be a need for an arts specific relief package
- Ausdance identifies the need for additional grants and income to assist the arts and dance sector at this time. It should not be drawn from existing or redirected funds
- More advice is needed to ensure that freelancers, sole traders and people whose partner's incomes are on the lowest end of the social security bracket can access the stimulus packages

Ausdance noted that this week dance studios were part of the shutdown of businesses across the country. More advice is pending in terms of the impact these closures will have on the sector as primary teaching and training spaces for emerging professionals and recreational participants in the dance community.

- Interim findings of the Ausdance Impact Survey and the work being done at National level and state levels. [Advocacy updates](#)
- Showed, by shared screen, various resources and sites. See links in summaries below
- Discussed the guidelines for online classes [Updates and resources from Ausdance Vic](#)

Ausdance National participated in a meeting with Shadow Arts Minister Tony Burke today. [Read here](#)

Here's an Ausdance update - some of the issues we're representing and advocacy actions we're taking to represent dance and your issues, and some important links [Read here](#)

A COVID-19 response from the Australia Council. [Read Here](#)

Media release from the Australian Greens [Read Here](#)

Ausdance joined with 50 other peak arts organisations to sign a letter to the Prime Minister and other government decision makers about more support for the arts and cultural sector. We'll post full details on the Ausdance National website later today so you can share it more widely. [Read here](#)

\$130 billion JobKeeper payment to keep Australians in a job [Read Here](#)

Time to register for these free webinars with the Arts Law Centre of Australia. Know your rights. [Read here](#)

The Australia Council is running an online webinar series on digital adaptation, leadership adaptation and arts practice adaptation. Weekly session times are Wednesday, 3-4pm and Friday, 11am-12pm. [Read Here](#)

## **Business**

Ausdance Victoria spoke with Business Victoria and the recommendation is for studio owners to develop business continuity and recovery plans. Ausdance Victoria would also like to share this information to you.

For each state specific business support and access to business mentors see below.

VIC: [Coronavirus business support](#)

NSW: [Small business advice and support](#)

WA: [Small business advice and support](#)

## **Online Transition and Liability**

Ausdance VIC Online Delivery of Dance classes and Tutorials outlines

- Legal and Duty of care considerations
- Managing Risks for recorded and Streamed Classes
- Practical Considerations Planning and Delivering Online Classes
- Pedagogical considerations teaching a streamed class
- Safety Statements Prior to Classes
- [Recommended Reading](#)

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Questions and Topics Raised

- Uncertainty at the time of meeting, information by government sources wa changing daily, adding to uncertainty
- Artists are focusing on immediate needs such as Centrelink and other supports
- Which Platforms are best to use to put work on and opportunity for online work
- The impact on the creation and development of projects and how this can be developed
- Looking at a letter of for getting finance support
- Using other skills in other parts of the sector and or developing them

## **Actions**

Independents

### Sector Survey

With our sector survey the more data we have about who is affected now will greatly help us give accurate data to the government and other advocacy work the Ausdance network is undertaking. We have been informed that we can update submissions with new data as it arises. Meaning you can fill in the survey now with all the current information you hold and when you have the numbers on the financial impact we can manually adjust your submission.

[Survey link>](#)

Lobby for dance industry support by contacting your local member of parliament. For a letter template [Click here](#)

## **Ausdance Network**

### Letter of Recognition of Artist Status

This may assist artists in applying for Centrelink and the stimulus measures. Please contact Ausdance VIC for a personalised copy. Email [victoria@ausdance.org.au](mailto:victoria@ausdance.org.au)

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 8 April, 2pm

### AGENDA

Minutes of previous meeting

Actions including Letter of recognition of artist status

1. Wellness check
2. Creative Plus Business resources. [Click here](#)
3. Open discussion



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