

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Statement on COVID -19**

**Dear Ausdance VIC members, friends and community,**

We would like to acknowledge the significant impact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on communities and individuals across the world. Our thoughts go out to those who have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

As the situation rapidly changes, many arts and cultural organisations are taking proactive measures to reduce the strain and burden of the potential spread, including temporary closures, delaying or cancelling shows and festivals.

At Ausdance VIC, our role has always been to provide the dance sector with support and guidance. We are committed to continuing to do so in these challenging times. Like most organisations, Ausdance VIC has been reviewing our ways of working to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our people and the Ausdance community. To that end, we will be working remotely until further notice.

What this means for our community, partners and members:

☒The office will be unattended over this period, however, please feel free to contact us directly for any matter, we are here to help. Email addresses can be found [here](#)

☒We encourage all our members and community to engage with Ausdance and the broader dance and arts sector through our various social media platforms. You can also request an online meeting with our staff for advice and support as required.

☒VET Dance programs: School programs and services are subject to all Government policy and directives, including the RTO and VET Dance. Please contact your school or studio directly to find out what precautions they are taking.

For our members who are considering their own response to COVID-19, the websites of the Australian Government Department of Health; Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and the international World Health Organization (WHO) should be consulted regularly. More information is also available through [Creative Victoria's website](#) and [The Australia Council for the Arts](#).

Dance and other art forms have a lot to offer in situations that call for strength and resilience. You only need to look at some of the inspiring images from European cities in self-isolation, with communities connecting through dance and song on their balconies. Dance can have a positive impact on physical and mental wellbeing, particularly in times of social isolation and we would be happy to share any positive messages, projects and thoughts you may have over the coming weeks and months. You can also connect with us directly via [victoria@ausdance.org.au](mailto:victoria@ausdance.org.au).

With our best wishes

Michelle, Amy, Katrina, Shweta, Fiona and Kate