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**From:** "COVID-19" <[covid-19@arts.gov.au](mailto:covid-19@arts.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Return to dance activities post Covid-19 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Date:** 5 June 2020 at 2:40:34 pm AEST

**To:** "[julie.dyson@home.netspeed.com.au](mailto:julie.dyson@home.netspeed.com.au)" <[julie.dyson@home.netspeed.com.au](mailto:julie.dyson@home.netspeed.com.au)>

Dear Mr Summers and Ms Dyson

Thank you for your email of 2 June to the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers seeking clarity about the recovery of the dance sector from the disruptions caused by COVID-19. The Office for the Arts is responding on behalf of the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, as this matter falls within his portfolio responsibilities.

Ausdance is to be commended for your proactive stance in responding to the impact of COVID-19 on your members. We appreciate the challenging circumstances in which you are operating. The Government is aware that the necessary restrictions to manage the health impacts of COVID-19 have significantly affected the way Australians live and work, including dance organisations.

On 8 May 2020, the National Cabinet finalised a three-step plan to gradually remove baseline restrictions and make Australia COVID-safe. A detailed plan of the steps is available at: [www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/covid-safe-australia-roadmap.pdf](http://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/covid-safe-australia-roadmap.pdf) and a summary at: [www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/three-step-framework-covidsafe-australia.pdf](http://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/three-step-framework-covidsafe-australia.pdf).

Your *Return to Dance* guidelines provide a framework and guiding principles for the resumption of dance activities. As discussed at the peak arts industry bodies roundtable you attended on 26 May, arts businesses should prepare and develop a plan, including risk assessments, hygiene controls and social distancing, to operate in a COVID safe way to protect their customers and workers. The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) has released a planning tool to assist businesses develop COVIDSafe Plans, which is available at: <https://pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/my-business-covidsafe-plan.pdf>. Safe Work Australia also has a range of guidance and protocols for office environments, workplaces, and training, available at: [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au). The Australia Council is working with various peak bodies from the arts sector to develop a set of industry protocols.

States and territories are responsible for implementing the three-step plan, which may happen at different times across jurisdictions. While this can be difficult to navigate, it means that restrictions can be lifted in line with the public health situation and local conditions in each jurisdiction. To support their re-opening, your members should refer to the national principles and framework you have provided as well as their local authorities for the most up to date information on the restrictions in place where they operate. Information on state and territory responses to the coronavirus pandemic is available at [australia.gov.au](http://australia.gov.au). You may like to refer your members to the following state-specific websites:

- For New South Wales: [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)
- For Victoria: [www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

- For Queensland: [www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19)
- For South Australia: [www.covid-19.sa.gov.au](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au)
- For Western Australia: [www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus)
- For Tasmania: <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au>
- For the Northern Territory: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au>
- For the Australian Capital Territory: [www.covid19.act.gov.au](http://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

Thank you again for writing and I trust this information is helpful.

### **COVID-19 Arts Taskforce**

Office for the Arts

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*We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. We recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*