



**Media Release – For immediate release**

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## **BUDGET A ‘NO-SHOW’ FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE**

The Turnbull Government has once again missed the opportunity to demonstrate its support for Australia’s live performance industry in the Federal Budget.

Live Performance Australia (LPA) put forward a number of proposals to the Government in its Budget submission to support new Australian content, innovation and job creation for the \$2.5 billion live performance industry.

‘This Budget is a big disappointment for live performance. There’s nothing there in terms of new policy initiatives or investment to support the live performance industry’s growth and sustain the 34,000 jobs in metropolitan and regional areas supported by the industry,’ said LPA Chief Executive Evelyn Richardson.

‘The Government’s neglect of live performance in this Budget follows the upheaval of earlier Budgets including the Catalyst fiasco,’ Ms Richardson said.

‘Post-Catalyst, the Minister for the Arts, Senator Fifield, indicated he wanted to work with industry to develop a more strategic approach to supporting live performance in Australia.

‘That was almost two years ago, and as this Budget shows, the Government is yet to take up the opportunity to come up with any meaningful policy initiatives or plan for our industry or the creative industries more broadly,’ Ms Richardson said.

‘More than 18 million people attend a live performance in our capital cities, regional centres and country towns each year.

‘Live performance promotes Australian talent and creativity across a range of genres, and is a major driver of our visitor economy, attracting visitors from interstate and overseas to see performances or attend festivals.

‘It really is time for the Turnbull Government to reflect the economic and cultural contribution our industry makes to Australia with a broader vision and some long-term, strategic policy initiatives that support its future growth,’ Ms Richardson said.

**ENDS**

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## About LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established 100 years ago in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has over 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial producers, music promoters, major performing arts companies, small to medium companies, independent producers, major performing arts centres, metropolitan and regional venues, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas, arts festivals, music festivals, and service providers such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers. Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities.

LPA has a clear mandate to advocate for and support policy decisions that benefit the sustainability and growth of the live performance industry in Australia.