

To Whom It May Concern.

My name is Craig Brown and I have been a financial member of MEAA for over twenty years. Most people in the performing arts industry do it tough. There is not a lot of paying work at even the best of times. There is not a lot of ongoing work even at the best of times. Most people work on a gig by gig basis, with often a lot of down time between gigs. Most of this also is casual work, aside from superannuation, there are no other paid entitlements. People in the performing arts industry need real government support and assistance, particularly financial assistance. A lot of jobs that performers do between gigs, e.g. wait staff, bar work, retail, hospitality, has also disappeared due to Covid-19. I myself have recently been let go from a long term casual job that I have been doing for the last 12 and a half years. It came as a shock, the axe fell quickly on me (and others), and there will be no going back.

The performing arts have an important role in our society, and over many decades have shown Australia's face, society and culture to the rest of the world. I implore those in government to do what they can in these bad times to help those in the performing arts, and ensure that our vital industry does not disappear