



WEST AUSTRALIAN  
BALLETT

Patron:  
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC  
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:  
Aurélien Scannella

## STATEMENT

Tuesday 7 April 2020

### **WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLETT URGE GOVERNMENT TO ACT NOW TO SAVE THE ARTS**

Today, Tuesday 7 April 2020, West Australian Ballet along with artists, arts workers, and cultural stakeholders will take part in a one-day action demanding that the Australian Government act to save the country's fledgling arts industry.

"Australia's cultural and creative sector is an \$111.7bn industry: six times the size of the aviation industry, employing substantially more people than mining, and with several interdependent industries whose success relies on ours, including hospitality and tourism," said Jessica Machin, West Australian Ballet Executive Director.

"The Australian arts sector is an industry that has always financially skated on thin ice. With an impending shut down that will continue for months, Australia's industry that leads culture, tourism, hospitality among others, will not recover. We need leadership and support from our Federal Government now, with a minimum of \$850 million (just 0.00038% of Australia's GDP) needed immediately for numerous companies, let alone jobs, to be saved," continued Machin.

The impact of shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the arts sector brought to its knees, with 50,000 practising professional artists and 600,000 creative industry workers not covered by stimulus measures announced to date.

While the Australia Council for the Arts' four year funding model will be announced in the coming week for Major Performing Arts organisations, this funding won't prevent the immediate decimation of the industry.

"When I witness a performance or see any type of art, I like to feel, I like it to take me on an emotional journey and I want it to educate the audience. Without that, this leaves a gaping void in the make up of our society," said Aurélien Scannella, West Australian Ballet Artistic Director.

Join West Australian Ballet and arts advocates around the country by sharing what the arts means to you on Social Media by using the hashtag #CreateAustraliasFuture and #AusPol.