

# REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COPYRIGHT ECOSYSTEM

## INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), an Information Session on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Copyright Ecosystem will take place. In order to provide a clear overview of the “impact on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions”, the Secretariat kindly invites Member States and Observers to share existing examples of situations that arose and actions that were taken and/or interventions that were made during the Covid-19 pandemic with respect to the industries or institutions that are being considered in the Information Session. We ask you to describe these situations or actions by providing the information requested below. If you are able to give us some elements of your response before March 15, it could help our researchers who are preparing the overview. In addition, all contributions received by the eve of the Information Session will be uploaded (with your permission) onto the WIPO web site.

Please send this form by email to the following address: [copyright.mail@wipo.int](mailto:copyright.mail@wipo.int) with the subject: “Information Session”.

## **INFORMATION REQUEST [AUSTRALIA RESPONSE]**

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.  
**Arts COVID Recovery and Response Team, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australian Government**
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.  
sarah.proust@arts.gov.au
3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?  
 Yes  
 No
4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?  
 Yes  
 No
5. Brief description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).  
*(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session. Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)*  
The Australian Government’s \$250 million Creative Economy COVID-19 support package announced in 2020 has increased to over \$485 million. The package consists a range of

measures including the \$200 million Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund which provides project funding for festivals, concerts, tours and events, the \$50 million Temporary Interruption Fund to support local film and television producers to secure finance and keep filming, the \$59 million COVID-19 Arts Sustainability Fund which provides direct financial assistance to support significant Commonwealth-funded organisations facing threats due to COVID-19 and \$40 million to the charity Support Act to provide immediate crisis relief to artists and live performance workers across the country. More information on all of these measures and others can be found at [www.arts.gov.au/covid-19-update](http://www.arts.gov.au/covid-19-update).

Whole-of-economy supports have also assisted the sector during the pandemic. The Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research estimates that employees and entities in cultural and creative sectors received \$10.7 billion—including \$8 billion in JobKeeper payments between April and December 2020, and \$2.7 billion in Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments to early February 2021. This would have represented 8.8 per cent of the estimated economic contribution of cultural and creative sectors of \$122.2 billion in 2020–21.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).  
Nationwide

7. Relevant sector or sectors.  
Performing Arts, Music, Audiovisual including cinema

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:  
Independent cinemas, regional arts

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.  
The key lesson demonstrated by this example is the value of a COVID-19 response that includes both whole-of-economy and targeted measures.

Australian Government intervention through whole-of-economy measures, such as the JobKeeper and Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments, provided critical support for activity and employment in the sector during the pandemic. These whole-of-economy measures were effectively supplemented by the Creative Economy COVID-19 support package which delivered a range measures targeted to meet the specific needs and challenges of the sector.

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.  
[COVID-19 update | Office for the Arts, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications](#)

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.  
N/A

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1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.

**Copyright Reform and Policy Section, Content and Copyright Branch, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australian Government**

2 Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.

[Ryan.Webb@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Ryan.Webb@infrastructure.gov.au)

3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?

Yes

No

4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?

Yes

No

5. Brief description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).

*(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session. Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)*

In August 2020, the Australian Government announced proposed reforms to simplify and update Australia's copyright laws to better support and align the use of copyright material in the physical and digital environments, while copyright holders continue to be fairly remunerated for the use of their material. These proposed reforms are primarily targeted at sectors that serve important public interests, including the cultural and education sectors. While the issues addressed by the proposed reforms are not new, the importance of an adaptable copyright framework was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the transition to widespread online and remote learning and online delivery of many public institutions' services, and the impacts of the pandemic on the creative sector.

On 21 December 2021, the Government released draft legislation for public consultation. The consultation period closed on 25 February 2022. The Government is currently reviewing submissions.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).  
Australia.

7. Relevant sector or sectors.  
Creative, cultural and education.

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.

The Australian Government is continuing to work with key stakeholders across the creative, cultural and educational sectors to refine its draft copyright reform legislation, including to ensure that appropriate incentives and protections for content creators are maintained. In the interim, key stakeholders have worked together to find practical and reasonable solutions to address potential copyright issues during COVID-19. One industry-led solution is the Australian Storytime Agreement reached between the Australian schools sector and the Australian Publishers Association and Australian Society of Authors. This agreement allows teachers to read Australian children's books to students and their families in a virtual environment during COVID-19 'lockdowns', either via livestreaming or, if this is not practical, making temporary recordings of the storytime available online to view.

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.

[Copyright Amendment \(Access Reforms\) Bill 2021 and accompanying Discussion Paper](#)

[Australian Storytime Agreement for schools](#)

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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