

## Crisis Relief Grants: COVID-19

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has created intense financial hardship for artists, crew and music workers throughout the country. Many of you were the first to lose your jobs and your income, and our sector could well be the last to recover.

With funding support from **the Australian Government**, Support Act has expanded its services to offer Crisis Relief to music industry professionals impacted by COVID-19. This additional funding enables us to offer crisis relief to:

- musicians, crew and music workers who are unable to access Government benefits due to eligibility or other issues
- music workers who have been able to access Government benefits but are still facing financial hardship; and to
- those who are suffering financial hardship as a result of injury, ill-health or a mental health issue that is managed through a current Mental Health plan.

**If your ability to work has been impacted by COVID-19 and you are a musician, crew or music worker, you may be eligible to apply for Crisis Relief**, provided you:

- are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or have a valid working visa
- can prove that you have been working in the music industry for three years
- can provide names and details of two professional referees
- have household expenses which are greater than your household income.

**There is no deadline to apply**, however, we encourage those experiencing hardship to submit your application as soon as possible. Our social workers aim to process applications within 21 days of receipt, but delays may be experienced from time to time due to high demand.

If your application is successful, we will look to provide financial support in the areas of rent/mortgage, food, utilities, medical equipment and costs. We may also offer support that is not financial, or refer you to other services.

Unfortunately, we do not provide assistance for businesses, and cannot provide funding for office or studio rent, purchase of musical equipment, payment of staff etc.

We review our crisis relief policy on an ongoing basis and update it as required.

For mental health advice and support, our **Wellbeing Helpline** is available 24/7 by calling **1800 959 500**.

