



THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP
Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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Arts sector in Victoria set to RISE

In a major boost to the recovery of the Victorian arts sector, the Australian Government has today announced that 48 projects will share in more than \$20 million in funding, under batch one of the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund.

Grants of between \$50,000 and \$2 million will begin to flow immediately, supporting arts and entertainment sector organisations that are seeking to restart, re-imagine or create new cultural and creative activities.

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said the grants were an important step in securing the long-term sustainability of cultural and creative organisations across Victoria.

“The arts, creative and entertainment sector not only employs hundreds of thousands of Australians directly – it also supports employment in hospitality, travel and other areas,” Minister Fletcher said.

“It also brings enjoyment and recreation to audiences – which has never been more important than right now.

“Our commitment of more than \$20 million in grants is an important step in the rejuvenation of Victoria’s arts sector from COVID-19. We are excited to see money flow to 48 projects, which will support the creation of more than 13,000 jobs across Victoria.”

Minister Fletcher said that one of the largest grant recipients in Victoria was Melbourne Theatre Company with nearly \$1.2 million.

“This grant will support the MTC to develop three new Australian theatre productions for live and digital presentation in 2021 and 2022.”

The \$75 million RISE program was announced as part of the Government’s \$250 million Creative Economy Support Package to help restart activities such as festivals, concerts, tours and events once it is safe to do so.

It is anticipated the Fund will create 44,000 jobs across Australia, with benefits to flow on to the tourism, hospitality, transport and freight sectors.”

A sample of key Victorian projects is attached. The full list of batch one recipients will be announced in the coming weeks.

Organisation	Funding	Description
Melbourne Theatre Company	\$1,188,149	Three new Australian works
Michael Cassel Group, producers of Hamilton, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and other major international musicals	\$971,895	Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and other major international musicals
Islamic Museum of Australia	\$605,000	To expand the Museum's digital footprint, delivering capacity-building for Australian Muslim creatives, artists and audiences.
Grande Experiences	\$705,000	Large-scale multi-sensory experiences, of light, colour, sound and aroma.
Melbourne International Arts Festival	\$1,480,000	Four large-scale projects.
Melbourne Fringe	\$275,000	To deliver safe and viable key festival programs for independent artists and venues.
Bluey's Big Play	\$1,871,338	For an all-Australian theatrical adaptation of the Emmy® award-winning children's television series.
Secret Squirrel Productions Unit Trust	\$132,943	An action-packed immersive live experience.
Malthouse Theatre	\$550,000	For a flexible performance hub that will deliver a year-round performance.
Castlemaine State Festival	\$172,900	To deliver a deliver a COVID-safe festival.

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