



22 February 2023

Charities Consultation
The Treasury
The Not-for-Profit Unit
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

LPA submission to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Registers Reform

Live Performance Australia (LPA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Registers Reform on behalf of Australia's \$4.7 billion live performance industry.¹ LPA represents commercial and independent producers, music promoters, performing arts companies, venues (performing arts centres, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas), arts festivals, music festivals and service providers (such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers). LPA's membership covers all performing art forms, companies of all sizes, as well as not-for-profit and commercial entities.

Many LPA Members have or may wish to seek DGR status.

LPA welcomes recently announced changes intended to make all DGR categories consistent in administration, reduce red tape and simplify the application process seeking DGR status.

As such, LPA is hopeful the proposed reforms will ease the process for arts and cultural organisations seeking DGR status. Doing so has the potential to enable eligible non-for-profit organisations in the arts and cultural sector attract funds as a DGR, aiding the industry address post-COVID challenges.

Key issues

LPA Members have voiced concerns with the current requirements to attain DGR status. Our Members, as arts and cultural organisations, must first apply to be a registered charity and then apply to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) before they are able to apply for DGR status. The additional step (i.e. ROCO process) is not required for non-arts and culture organisations applying for DGR status.

This administrative requirement is complex and burdensome resulting in additional stress on a not-for-profit organisation, traditionally lacking in resources, time and the expertise required to complete the ROCO process even before the company can apply for DGR status.

LPA Members have noted the time frame to receive a decision on their DGR application is also very long.

¹ Commonwealth of Australia (2022), *Cultural and creative activity in Australia 2010-11 to 2019-20*, Bureau of Communications and Arts Research, October 2022

For this reason, LPA welcomes the removal of the ROCO process for arts and cultural organisations to apply for DGR status in the announced changes. This will improve and simplify the application process for our Members. It will reduce the administrative burden, red tape and the time frame for a decision.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to present feedback to the DGR Registers Reform. Should you have any queries regarding the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Tran (ktran@liveperformance.com.au) via email or telephone.

Yours sincerely,



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ABOUT LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live arts and entertainment industry. Established over 100 years ago in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has almost 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial and independent producers, music promoters, performing arts companies, venues (performing arts centres, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas), arts festivals, music festivals and service providers (such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers). Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities.

LPA has a clear mandate to advocate for and support policy decisions that benefit the sustainability and growth of the live performance industry in Australia.