Victoria is home to a vibrant and hard-working live music community.  
Our live music scene means so much to so many Victorians – and it’s  
a big part of who we are.

That’s why the Victorian Government has introduced a range of support to protect and provide relief for live music venues across the state,   
during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Payroll tax waived and refunded for the 2019-20 financial year**

The Victorian Government has waived all payroll tax for businesses with taxable wages of up to $3 million in the 2019-20 financial year. The State Revenue Office will directly contact eligible businesses to refund payroll tax already paid.

Businesses can also defer paying payroll tax for the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year.

**Liquor Licence fees waived and refunded for 2020**

The Victorian Government has waived all renewable liquor licence fees for 2020.   
And because this money is better off in the bank accounts of businesses, the State Revenue Office has administered the refund of all liquor licence fees already paid.

**$10,000 grant from the Business Support Fund**

Music Victoria members, including both venues and performers, may   
be eligible for a one-off $10,000 grant from the Business Support Fund.   
Visit the Business Victoria website to see if you are eligible. More than   
300 applications from live venues and performers have already   
been approved.

**Commercial tenancies relief scheme**

To alleviate financial hardship faced by tenants and landlords, the Victorian Government has developed its commercial tenancies relief scheme. The scheme supports venues with:

* a six-month moratorium on commercial tenancy evictions from 29 March 2020 for the non-payment of rent, for businesses with an annual turnover under $50 million and a minimum 30 per cent reduction in turnover due to coronavirus (COVID-19)
* a six-month freeze on rent increases for commercial tenants   
  from 29 March 2020
* a mediation service for commercial tenants and landlords to support   
  the negotiation of rental payment waivers or deferrals.
* land tax relief to commercial landlords that provide rent relief to their   
  tenants, provided, the tenant’s annual turnover is under $50 million,   
  is an eligible business in the Commonwealth Government’s JobKeeper program and is suffering financial stress or hardship as a result   
  of the pandemic

The Victorian Government reserves the right to revisit these regulations and   
make further adjustments effective if tenants and landlords are not able to reach   
good faith agreements.

**Payroll tax and WorkCover premiums waived for employees only receiving JobKeeper payments**

The Victorian Government has waived all payroll tax and WorkCover premiums for employees who are only receiving JobKeeper payments. This means that if a business has stood down employees, it can pass on the full JobKeeper amount without incurring any additional costs.

**$8.2 million Sustaining Creative Workers and Live Music support package**

New support programs to keep Victorian musicians, music industry workers and independent artists working, creating and developing, including:

* $4.2 million through the Sustaining Creative Workers initiative, offering quick response grants for independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least five years of professional experience
* $ 2.5 million for the development, marketing and distribution   
  of new work by Victorian musicians
* $1.5 million for training, professional and business development   
  and mentoring for music industry workers