

**From:** [Joe Toohy](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [tourisminquiry](#); [Simone Schinkel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism and event sectors - Transcript  
**Date:** Friday, 23 April 2021 11:05:06 PM

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Hi Cat,

Thank you for this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On the questions on notice:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->'so how much is the total amount of money that you have received from the state government, say, in your industry?' COVID support specific programs for the creative sector were at \$90m at the height of the pandemic at August 2020, in addition to any economy-wide initiatives. New initiatives that have been launched since that time have been partly support through ongoing programs and partly COVID-specific support. More recently, the State Government notes some \$220m to date "... in the State Budget through grant programs, strategic initiatives and infrastructure projects to support the creative sector's survival and adaptation and to enable it to reactivate and rebuild." <https://creative.vic.gov.au/coronavirus/creative-industries-q-and-as>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->'...the bulk of the industry support has actually come through JobKeeper until now; is that true?' The Federal Arts Minister recently provided a useful breakdown of support: <https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/portfolio-speeches/sydney-institute-address-why-do-we-fund-the-arts>. It notes "If we take the numbers from the start of the pandemic through to the end of December 2020, total JobKeeper payments to people employed in the Creative and Performing Arts industry subdivision – to use the terminology of the Australian Bureau of Statistics - stood at over \$731 million." That number is much higher than any other targeted creative support programs provided at any level of government, suggesting the bulk of support has come through JobKeeper.

Best regards,  
Joe.

JOE TOOHEY  
Executive Director (CEO)  
Regional Arts Victoria

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