



New Leadership.



FRESH IDEAS FOR THE ARTS

Bringing Aussie musicians centre stage

A Rudd Labor Government will give Aussie musicians a boost by bringing them centre stage and ensuring new working opportunities when international acts tour Australia.

There is a widely held belief that local artists must be employed as part of touring productions - but there is no migration regulation requirement to this effect.

The current temporary visa requirement applies a “net employment benefit to the entertainment industry” only. Under the Howard Government, this regulation allows local musicians to fall through the cracks.

Federal Labor wants international touring productions to employ at least one local band or artist as a support act and will amend current migration regulations to help make this happen.

A Rudd Labor Government will provide Ministerial discretion under these regulations to ensure that international touring productions boost the employment of Australian music industry performers and technicians.

Federal Labor’s modified text will apply to Regulation 1.12A – Net employment benefit - of the *Migration Regulations 1994* for the temporary Entertainment Visa (Subclass 420).

Aussie musicians will benefit from new working opportunities and audiences will benefit from access to a wider range of musical talent. There can be few greater opportunities for emerging Australian musicians than sharing the stage with an international act in front of huge local crowds.

Federal Labor recognises the long history and commitment of Australian promoters in providing opportunities for local musicians when they bring the best overseas talent to our shores. Labor wants to strengthen these opportunities into the future.

Federal Labor’s boost for Australian musicians is part of a comprehensive plan for putting our contemporary music industry on a genuinely sustainable footing, which includes:

- Investing \$17 million in a Creative Industries Innovation Centre, incubating innovative small and medium-sized Australian creative businesses, including those in the music industry and music production.

- Providing \$2.4 million over four years to the Australian Music Radio Airplay Project, promoting contemporary Aussie music to community radio's four million weekly listeners.
- Developing a long-term Strategic Contemporary Music Industry Plan as a means to enhance cooperation within the industry on an ongoing basis.
- Boosting music industry exports through a more coordinated and consistent approach to international marketing.
- Working with the States, Territories and local government to reduce barriers to live music performance and encourage the growth of live music precincts in cities throughout Australia.