



**AUSTRALIAN
LIVE
MUSIC
BUSINESS
COUNCIL**

Annual Report 2023.24

Representing Australian Businesses in the Live Music Industry



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Chair Report

Everyone seems to be talking about live music at the moment. There's a Federal Parliamentary Enquiry underway, most cities are figuring out how live music can be deployed to bring the people back and councils all over the country are mapping out late night entertainment precincts.

With all this interest and the potential for investment and policy development, why is it that the average punter has only heard the bad news? I can guarantee you that if you speak to the person in the street their view would be that most of the big festivals have closed down, venues are suffering under crippling costs and customers spending less and local artists are unable to make the most basic living from their work. All of this is true of course. But let's not talk ourselves from recession into depression.

In my view there is a way through this. I don't agree that live music venues are doomed due to changing attitudes towards alcohol. Nor do I agree that festivals are no longer viable just because of costs. There is a lot more to the current situation. It is clear that the future will involve some real imagination and innovation. It is unrealistic to think that the live music industry could rinse and repeat whilst other industries adapt and evolve. The key will be to operate collectively and to employ the weight of the entire industry to effect change in this important part of Australia's cultural scene and the related commercial activity.

We are a small market, but with a great track record, so we have a reputation to uphold. It would be nice to see some more green shoots in 2025. Ideas such as the Arena Ticket Levy and Michael's Rule are but two of the things that can and are being done to improve the environment and preserve the live music industry for the next generation of artists and fans. ALMBC is perfectly positioned to be in the vanguard of this renewal and with the support of our members, professional and foundation members let's look up not down. Thanks for getting involved and let's make each year a bit better than the last.

Howard Adams
Chair



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Key Achievements 2023.24

Key 2023.24 outcomes include:

- Invited the founder of the UK Music Trust to speak at Bigsound 2024
- Established a coalition to initiate a Music Trust and an Arena Ticket Levy in Australia to fund grass roots live music venues
- Made public submissions to two sessions at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Live Music
- Sent eleven members who are Bookers, Promoters and Agents to international conferences
- Driven national awareness and agenda around ticketing transparency
- Successfully advocated for vital changes to federal funding that saw a major increase in grass roots venues and festivals funded in regional areas in the last Revive Live round (removing internationally owned corporations from the eligible list of applicants)
- Provided new insurance options for members and venues via formal relationships with two national broking firms.
- Held in-person professional development sessions in partnership with Music Victoria, Music ACT, QMusic and WAM



"MusicSA is a financial member of ALMBC and we routinely refer local music businesses and industry operators to ALMBC for allied industry and business advice. The ALMBC meets a particular need for live music businesses in the live music ecosystem and provides valuable advocacy and representation at a time when this is desperately needed.

More specifically, the ALMBC's focus on the importance of grass roots industry, including regional touring and capacity building for microbusiness in the back-end, has relevance for our state and local sector."

Christine Schloithe, CEO MusicSA



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Strategic Priorities 2024.25

Key Operational Focus in 2024.25

- Build staffing from one person 1.5 days each week to 2.5 days each week
- Maintain and build Professional Partners
- Increase the number of First Nations Board members to at least 2 people
- Build the representation from each state and territory on the Board (currently NT and ACT are not represented)

Key Projects for the ALMBC 2025

- Establish the Music Venues Trust Australia and provide administrative support if required
- Launch of the Arena Ticket Levy and fund the first round of grass roots live music venue support via the Music Venue Trust.
- Maintain in-person professional development sessions in every state and territory.
- Investigate a pilot Insurance Government / Industry partnership project in one region.
- Maintain International Conference program support
- Maintain monthly in-person professional development sessions across the continent, delivering one in each state & territory in the financial year

“On behalf of the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), I am pleased to endorse the work of the Australian Live Music Business Council (ALMBC) in their efforts to support Australia’s live music venues. Their proactive initiatives, industry expertise and knowledge of the general insurance market have made a meaningful impact on the resilience and sustainability of the live music industry.”

In recent years, live music venues have faced mounting challenges in securing adequate and affordable insurance. The ALMBC has stepped forward to help bridge this gap by not only assisting venues in obtaining insurance coverage but also by developing innovative tools that provide venues a means to better present their risk to underwriters as well as mitigate risk in their venues and spaces.”

The Insurance Council of Australia has worked closely with the ALMBC and acknowledges the critical importance of such initiatives, especially in safeguarding an industry that contributes significantly to our economy, community wellbeing, and cultural identity. The work of the ALMBC aligns closely with our shared commitment”

Andrew Hall, Executive Director and CEO., Insurance Council Of Australia



About the ALMBC

The Australian Live Music Business Council (ALMBC) proudly represents a wide spectrum of business owners and industry professionals who are essential to getting live music on stage, on tour and seen by domestic and international audiences.

Our membership includes venue operators and owners, festival and event promoters, booking agents, artist managers, production and site suppliers and the extensive technical teams responsible for lighting, sound, rigging and more. We champion the interconnected nature of our industry and advocate for strategies that support all facets of the live music ecosystem.

We champion the interconnected nature of our industry and advocate for strategies that support all facets of the live music ecosystem

We exist to:

- Provide a voice to government and within the overall music industry for the small to medium Australian businesses that make up the grass roots, live music supply chain;
- Support Australian live music businesses to improve their commercial operations and ability to compete in a global market;
- Bring about positive reforms and best practice across the industry; and
- Champion the interconnected nature of our industry and advocate for policy and strategies that support all facets of the live music ecosystem.



ALMBC AUSTRALIAN LIVE MUSIC BUSINESS COUNCIL aam THE RUSH QMUSIC

National Forum - Tues 28 May
Are young people into live music?
Discussing the change in how young people experience music culture

Kriza Canzon GYROstream
Ixaras Anti-Dimal
Claire Olan Media Arts Lawyers
Lucy Sugarman MusicACT



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ALMBC Professional Partners

These live music businesses are trusted partners of the ALMBC



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Media Rare



NEXUS





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ALMBC Board 2023.24

Name	Board Role	Company	Sector
Howard Adams	Chair & Secretary	Corner Soul	Legal
Sharlene Harris	Deputy Chair	ALH Group	Venues
Kylie Thompson	Treasurer	Sorrento Strategic	Accounting
Brian Chladil	Director	Oztix	Ticketing & Promoters
Stephen Wade	Director	Select	Booking Agents
Angie Dunbavan	Director	Red Chair	Promoter
Jarrad Thessman	Director	Thessman Events	Events & Production
Ali Craze	Director	Festival HQ	Event Management
Andrew Bassingthwaighte	Director	Xcelerate	Insurance & Risk
Melissa Tonkin	Director	Governor Hindmarsh	Venues
Deline Briscoe	Director	Gaba Musik	Artists & Promoters
Phil Brown	Director	Xact Accounting	Accounting



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ALMBC Financials (draft) 2023.24

AUSTRALIAN LIVE MUSIC BUSINESS COUNCIL LTD. For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Trading Income			
Sales			
Sale of Goods		36,254	32,333
Revenue		60,500	104,517
Total Sales		96,754	136,850
Gross Profit		96,754	136,850

	NOTES	2024	2023
Income			
Trading Profit		96,754	136,850
Total Income		96,754	136,850
Other Income			
Other Revenue		2,620	4,899
Total Other Income		2,620	4,899
Total Income		99,374	141,748
Expenses			
Travel and Accommodation		1,443	1,451
Advertising & PR		602	1,224
ASIC fees		2,058	1,595
Bank Fees		20	19
Consulting & Accounting		91,384	140,320
Insurance		1,480	801
Memberships		-	1,200
Stripe Fees		-	87
Subscriptions		2,920	2,646
Superannuation		110	-
Website and Socials Development		2,536	2,491
Total Expenses		102,553	151,835
Profit/(Loss) before Taxation		(3,179)	(10,086)
Net Profit After Tax		(3,179)	(10,086)

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Receivables	2	3,850	27,500
Cheque Account		20,490	12,913
Total Current Assets		24,340	40,413
Total Assets		24,340	40,413
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	3	5,070	1,346
GST		683	1,584
Taxation		-	5,717
Accrued Expenses		5,000	5,000
Fees in Advance		-	20,000
Loan - Media Rare		10,000	-
Total Current Liabilities		20,753	33,647
Total Liabilities		20,753	33,647
Net Assets		3,587	6,766
Equity			
Retained Earnings		3,587	6,766
Total Equity		3,587	6,766



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ALMBC Financials (draft) 2023.24

	2024	2023
2. Receivables		
Current		
Accounts Receivable	3,850	27,500
Total Current	3,850	27,500
Total Receivables	3,850	27,500
	2024	2023
3. Payables		
Current		
Accounts Payable	4,960	1,346
Superannuation Payable	110	-
Total Current	5,070	1,346
Total Payables	5,070	1,346
4. Shareholder Accounts		
Please see report titled Shareholder Accounts for a breakdown of shareholder account activity.		

	NOTES	2024	2023
Retained Earnings after Appropriation			
Retained Earnings at Start of Year		6,766	16,852
Profit/(Loss) Before Taxation		(3,179)	(10,086)
Retained Earnings After Appropriation		3,587	6,766

	2024
Tax Reconciliation	
Taxable Profit	-
Tax Payable	-
Net Profit Available for Shareholders	-
Dividends Paid	
Dividend Paid	-
Franking Credit	-
Dividend Paid	-
Franking Credit	-
Total Dividends Paid	-

To receive a copy of the full draft financial report and / or to be notified when the final is ready, please email contact@almbc.org.au

“The ALMBC and Music Victoria continue to partner successfully in the development and delivery of professional development opportunities for Victorian-based music industry sole traders and microbusinesses. In March 2024, the two organisations co-hosted a well-attended and very successful in-person and online event in Collingwood to support venues struggling with significant insurance costs and other financial and other pressures such as the changes in youth culture post COVID.”

In September the ALMBC played an important role in the Triple J More Than Just A One Night Stand professional development forum in Warrnambool, including attending, offering mentoring and support for regional Victorian businesses.”

Dale Packard, General Manager, Music Victoria



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Further Feedback

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to ALMBC for their support in enabling my attendance at ADE, the largest electronic music market and conference globally. ADE offers a unique opportunity to connect face-to-face with key players in the industry, including agents, artists, brands, and labels. This event serves as a vital platform for research and development across various sectors, particularly in production. I am especially encouraged by the support for the Australian music industry in pursuing further development opportunities."

Margi Bowman, Illlicit Sounds

"The International Conference Contribution, facilitated by the Australian Live Music Business Council and Music Australia, was critical in my attendance and productivity at WOMEX in Manchester in 2024. I thank all involved for this essential opportunity, their ongoing hard work and support of our Australian industry in international settings and hope to be involved in this project again in future."

Justin Rudge, Port Fairy Folk Festival





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Further Feedback

“Accessing international opportunities and markets is crucial for Australian agents and live bookers, as these pathways play a vital role in driving growth and sustainability in the music industry. In 2024, Sounds Australia and the Australian Live Music Business Council (ALMBC) have been partners collaborating on several key initiatives. Notably, we joined forces to implement the Music Australia International Conference Contribution program, specifically tailored for venue bookers, booking agents, and promoters.

This program marks a significant milestone, being the first time dedicated funding has been available for these sectors, amplifying the reach of Australian talent on the global stage and strengthening the music ecosystem at home.”

Esti Zilber Sounds Australia



MUSIC VICTORIA ALMBC

NAVIGATING INSURANCE

HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED BY THE RISING INSURANCE COSTS FOR LIVE MUSIC VENUES?



14 MAR

Free for Music Victoria Members
Sign up now

Music Industry Superannuation

 Kylie Thompson CPA
Director
Sorrento Strategic Accounting

 Danielle Siers
Financial Controller
Music Victoria

11 December 12pm AEDT
Free Online Forum

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MUSIC VICTORIA

 sorrento strategic accounting