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MS24-002336


Australian Government
**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**
To: The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for the Arts (for decision)

Subject: Withdrawal of *Revive* Live funding offer for Playbill Venues Pty Ltd

Critical Date: Routine

Recommendations:

1. That you **note** the change of ownership of Playbill Venues Pty Ltd, and the affect this has on the organisation's eligibility under the *Revive* Live program.

Noted / Please Discuss

2. That you **Agree** to withdraw the *Revive* Live funding offer for Playbill Venues Pty Ltd.

Agreed / Not Agreed
TONY BURKE

Date:

Comments:
Key Points:

1. Playbill Venues Pty Ltd (the Grantee) was approved for a grant of \$54,704 under the *Revive* Live program (the Program) for accessibility upgrades at its venue, the Hordern Pavilion.
2. As the decision-maker for the Program, we seek your agreement to withdraw the funding offer to the Grantee on the grounds of eligibility.
3. The parent organisation for the Grantee, Playbill Group, was recently purchased by AEG Presents, an international entertainment provider. This change resulted in the organisation becoming majority international owned (90 per cent international, and 10 per cent Australian).
4. The *Revive* Live grant opportunity guidelines contained an eligibility requirement that stipulated only organisations that are a majority-Australian owned business (including any parent or related companies) could apply. This change makes them ineligible under the guidelines.

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5. The department was not aware of the impending ownership change during the assessment process, as the documents provided in the application showed previous ownership only.

6. The Grantee notified the department of this change after you approved the grant recommendations but before entering into a funding agreement with the Commonwealth. The change of ownership took effect 16 September 2024, prior to your approval of the grant recommendations and announcement. A letter from the Grantee is at **Attachment A**.

Financial impacts:

7. Should you decide to withdraw the funding offer, \$54,704 will become available under the Program.

Legal/Legislative impacts: N/A

Stakeholder Implications:

8. The Grantee is aware that the change in ownership may result in the withdrawal of their funding offer.

Sensitivities:

9. Proceeding with the grant may be criticised by other majority internationally owned applicants that were deemed ineligible during the assessment process.

Consultation: DITRDCA Legal Services Division.

Media Opportunities: N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: Letter from Playbill Venues Pty Ltd

Cleared By: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Position: A/g Assistant Secretary
 Branch: Arts Development and Investment
 Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cleared Date: 10/12/2024

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Section: Contemporary Music
 Ph: 02 6271 s22(1)
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Instructions for MPS: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, Angela French, s22(1)(a)(ii), s22(1)(a)(ii), Stephen Arnott, s22(1)(a)(ii), Philip Smith, Alison Todd, s22(1)(a)(ii), s22(1)(a)(ii)

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24 October 2024

Dear Contemporary Music Team / s22(1)(a)(ii) ,

Re: Revive Live ID RL0180 - Hordern Pavilion – Playbill Venues

We were thrilled that the Hordern Pavilion was recognised with a Revive Live grant and our continued investment in accessibility has been supported. The application took a great deal of work and was a passion project for the team.

However since applying and within the month of September the ownership of our parent group has changed and we felt it appropriate to advise before proceeding.

Playbill Venues remains the Australian Private Company who operates the Hordern Pavilion as per our application and ABN 30 628 373 633.

Playbill (Playbill Group) was established in Sydney in 1958 by Directors Brian and Jocelyn Nebenzahl. Since then, Playbill has become an integral part of the Australian entertainment industry and today, operates in ten countries worldwide. Playbill Venues are proudly part of the Playbill Group. Operating at the heart of Australia's entertainment industry, Playbill Venues has delighted audiences, theatre-goers, music lovers and sports fans managing both the Hordern Pavilion and previously the Royal Hall of Industries.

In September 2024, the Nebenzahl family settled an agreement with international entertainment provider AEG Presents. Whilst Playbill Venues is an Australian entertainment entity, our parent organisation does now have a percentage Australian and a percentage foreign ownership.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that the Hordern Pavilion is committed to supporting accessible patrons and intends to use the grant application funds requested to procure the proposed equipment, however we will await confirmation before proceeding due to our change in ownership.

As part of the grant we have further proposed the commitment of our own venue funds to this equipment.

Kind regards,

s47F

Anthony Dunstord
General Manager

s47F

M: s47F

Playbill Venues Pty Ltd ABN 30 628 373 633
Suite B, Level 1, Building 16, Fox Studios Australia
Park Road North, Moore Park NSW 2021
Mail PO Box 410, Paddington NSW 2021
Phone +61 2 9921 5332 Fax +61 2 9921 5334

Web www.playbillvenues.com.au | Facebook www.facebook.com/HordernPavilion | Twitter www.twitter.com/HordernPavilion