



PERFORMING ARTS TOURING ALLIANCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BACKGROUND

Established in September 2009, the Performing Arts Touring Alliance (PATA) is Australia's peak body for the performing arts touring sector. It is a cohesive and objective voice for government and key stakeholders, providing quality and informed strategic advice and policy, and best-practice resources.

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PATA is currently an unincorporated entity, operating under the auspices of the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA).

It is acknowledged that at some point in the future, PATA may become a separately incorporated body with a formal constitution.

This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the commitment of (i) PATA's Council members and Chair, (ii) PATA's official Observers and (iii) PATA's Executive Officer to work together to facilitate, promote and advocate the role of PATA and its activities, towards the improvement of national touring in Australia.

The Memorandum of Understanding is to be treated as a 'living' document, in that the signatories to the agreement will be updated from time to time as a result of changes to council membership and official observer representatives.

It is acknowledged that the form of engagement with national touring will be different for each of the signatories to this agreement.

DEFINITION

National touring is defined as the touring of professional performing arts to three or more professionally managed venues in a sequential itinerary and which cross one or more Australian State and/or Territory boundaries.

It is acknowledged and broadly supported by all signatories to this agreement that the mechanisms and policies that underpin professional national touring will also have value for the volunteer and community presenter circuits, and that opportunities will be sought to support the differing needs of other touring circuits.

IT IS AGREED THAT:

1. Touring the performing arts is essential to the vibrancy and development of both the arts industry and audiences.
2. PATA has been established as the industry leader responsible for nurturing a performing arts touring industry that is vibrant; coordinated; stable; sustainable; accountable; efficient and effective.

3. The goals of PATA are to:
 - Provide leadership for the Australian performing arts touring sector, establishing industry agreements and a code of conduct to achieve the highest standards of service delivery.
 - Build on the success of previous practice and programs to deliver national touring of professional performing arts and to respond to new and innovative opportunities this success has created.
 - Support and develop sustainable, consistent, reliable, and accountable professional performing arts touring across Australia.
 - Provide a forum and process for the timely addressing of difficulties arising between stakeholders.
 - Facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in the development of policies and strategic direction for national touring.
 - Build on and expand the potential for synergy between producers/artists, presenters and tour coordinators to improve outcomes for Australian audiences and the industry as a whole.
 - Provide objective and effective advocacy on behalf of the industry in respect of national touring and to provide informed and representative advice to government to assist in their policy development and funding prioritisation and delivery.
 - Be the primary place for benchmarking, research and advice for the national performing arts touring industry.

4. PATA’s Governance Structure (revised July 2011) and Business Plan 2011-2013, both documents that will be updated from time to time, will guide the governance, operating framework, parameters of business and financial operations of the organisation.

5. Wide stakeholder input will be encouraged and Council will invite appropriate stakeholder representatives to meetings from time to time for open discussion on specific issues.

THE UNDERSTANDING

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 Signature and Date

 Name

 Organisation