



**WE ARE FOR...
ARTISTS. INDUSTRY. QUEENSLAND.**

21 May 2021

To our valued members and supporters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous and continued support for QMusic's programs and events, especially throughout 2020, which was without a doubt one of the most challenging times in the music industry's history. Together we have helped to keep the live music industry afloat and supported the local music economy, developed the industry and showcased the incredible talent in our community.

Recently, a situation arose relating to the alleged sexual assault of an artist following a BIGSOUND gig in 2015. QMusic has been involved in ongoing discussions with those directly involved and we are grateful for their honesty and willingness to engage with us. We are confident that positive progress has been and will continue to be made. We are also working to improve the systems here at QMusic as well as those across the industry we represent. QMusic must do better. The music industry must do better.

These ongoing conversations have been a catalyst for a renewed focus on safety at BIGSOUND, which will be at the heart of the 2021 conference to build a better, safer future for our event, and the music industry at large.

As Australia's leading music industry conference, we have an opportunity and responsibility to help facilitate real, industry-wide change, which is why this year's BIGSOUND conference program will be built around providing the space for critical conversations to progress positive change.

QMusic is committed to combating sexual and gender-based violence by engaging meaningfully with and listening to the music industry. It is essential that diverse voices and experiences from across the industry are involved in this process. For 2021, we are bringing together a QMusic Safety Taskforce to help us work towards making our events the safest they have ever been. Our programming and events team is also busy preparing a number of initiatives centred on improving safety at BIGSOUND, and we will be announcing the details in the lead-up. We welcome feedback and ideas on the Taskforce focus or expressions of interest which can be sent to safety@qmusic.com.au.

The QMusic Board is also grateful to and fully supports outgoing CEO Angela Samut, who is staying on to ensure a seamless handover to Kris Stewart over the coming weeks.

It is wonderful to be back live this year in Queensland from 7 to 9 September. We all look forward to sharing BIGSOUND's conference and festival line-up and seeing you there to discover Australia's best new talent and be part of the conversations this industry needs to have as we move to a better future.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and advocacy of BIGSOUND and the future of live music.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Strijland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Natalie Strijland
President, QMusic