

Thursday 18 April, 2019

Statement from Confederation of Australian State Theatres (CAST)

The entire performing arts industry is in the process of cultural change. It's painful, and it's overdue, but individuals and organisations are focused like never before on ensuring our work places are safe and our professional relationships are respectful, responsible and kind.

We take this opportunity to repeat our commitment to making positive change in Australian theatre workplaces. We have worked closely with Eryn Jean Norvill and Sophie Ross, the founders of Safe Theatres Australia, an artist-led initiative that fosters open, trusting dialogue across the non-profit theatre sector. The sector has benefited greatly from the leadership and courage they have shown.

One key outcome to date arising from our partnership with the Safe Theatres movement will be the standardisation of workplace policies and procedures across CAST companies. These are designed to prevent unwanted behaviours in the workplace, and to clearly set out how these behaviours will be managed if they do arise. They will be adopted by all nine CAST companies and actively explained and promoted in inductions to the cast and crew of each new production, as well as to administrative and other staff. This will ensure that whenever artists and creatives move between companies there will be consistency in approach. The policies will support the CAST national code of behaviour that was adopted in 2017.

As the current leaders of CAST companies, we accept that we have the responsibility, and the opportunity, to create lasting and positive change for the future.

**BELL
SHAKESPEARE**

Peter Evans, Artistic Director
Gill Perkins, Executive Director

BELVOIR

Eamon Flack, Artistic Director
Sue Donnelly, Executive Director

**BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY**

Clare Watson, Artistic Director
Natalie Jenkins, Executive Director



Rob Tannon, Artistic Director
Tahlia Azaria, General Manager

**MALTHOUSE
THEATRE**

Matthew Lutton, Artistic Director
Sarah Neal, Executive Producer

MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Brett Sheehy AO, Artistic Director
Virginia Lovett, Executive Director

**QUEENSLAND
THEATRE**

Sam Strong, Artistic Director
Amanda Jolly, Executive Director

**STATE
THEATRE
COMPANY**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mitchell Butel, Artistic Director
Jodi Glass, Executive Director/Producer

**SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO**

Kip Williams, Artistic Director
Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director