

# CAST

## Confederation of Australian State Theatres

BELL  
SHAKESPEARE

BELVOIR

BLACK SWAN  
STATE THEATRE  
COMPANY



MALHOUSE  
THEATRE

MTC MELBOURNE  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

QUEENSLAND  
THEATRE

STATE  
THEATRE  
COMPANY  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY  
THEATRE  
CO

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2017

### **CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN STATE THEATRES (CAST) RESPONDS TO SURVEY INTO SEXUAL HARASSMENT, CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT AND BULLYING IN AUSTRALIAN LIVE PERFORMANCE**

Today, MEAA formally released the findings of its survey into Sexual Harassment, Criminal Misconduct and Bullying in Australian Live Performance.

CAST companies commend the MEAA's initiative in commissioning this important study.

The findings provide sobering evidence of the negative experience of many artists working in Australian live performance. Coming at a time of scrutiny and reflection around the world with regard to bullying and harassment in the entertainment industry, CAST companies consider that the release of the survey results will help fuel a turning point in the Australian environment.

We accept that it is our responsibility – as the current generation of leaders of CAST companies – to acknowledge any failure of our organisations to act effectively at all times in the past, and to ensure that as of now we commit to creating lasting and positive change for the future.

To that end, CAST companies have enthusiastically accepted an offer from the MEAA to work collaboratively on a review of policies and procedures in theatre work places, and also to explore the circumstances that might lead to inappropriate behaviours, and those that militate against effective reporting and management of cases. It is anticipated that the parties will convene working groups early in the new year.

While 34% of respondents to the survey reported that levels of bullying and harassment in live performance work places have been constant over time, it is encouraging to note that 27% say there has been some improvement, providing hope that there is the potential for real change.

We look forward to working together to bring this about.