



Ms Julia Finn MP
Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Arts and
Music Education and Training in NSW
Parliament of New South Wales
6 Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Our Ref: C24/224
28 October 2024

By email:

Dear Ms Finn

Thank you for your letter dated 29 August 2024 inviting my agency, Multicultural NSW (MNSW), to provide relevant information to the Inquiry into Arts and Music Education and Training in NSW (the Inquiry).

MNSW plays a key role in promoting the Multicultural Principles enshrined in the *Multicultural NSW Act 2000* (NSW). These principles are the policy of the State and speak to the importance of the people of NSW being free to profess, practise and maintain their own linguistic, religious and ancestral heritage.

As such, MNSW is committed to encouraging cultural diversity through the arts and music. This is supported by MNSW's Stronger Together Festival and Event Grants Program that provides funding to multicultural and multifaith community groups to deliver festivals and events that celebrate and embrace our state's vibrant cultural diversity. These festivals and events may showcase cultures and traditions through cultural and traditional dancing and music performances that form part of the overall program of these events.

Given the role arts and music play in our communities, MNSW acknowledges the need for an inclusive approach towards arts and music education that considers culturally diverse contexts. In recognition of this, MNSW funds the Arts and Cultural Exchange (ACE) to administer the Multicultural Women's Hub program (MWH). MWH has delivered various projects that allow women from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds to practice and develop their creative skills and techniques. For example, the *Gul Collective* project provides a safe space for participants to develop their weaving skills. The women who participated in this project were later invited to run weaving and embroidery workshops at various festivals. Other projects have a more specific focus on traditional cultural art and techniques, such as *Fariba's Sewing Hub*. Women who participated in this project were invited by Cumberland Council to present their works (traditional Haft-Sin tables, folkloric dresses, and textiles) for the Nowruz Celebration.

Additionally, MNSW has led the development of the *NSW Settlement Strategy (the Strategy)* to improve settlement outcomes for people from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds living in NSW. All NSW Government departments have committed to actions in the Strategy. Actions 4.5 and 4.21 relate to

support for artists and art organisations that service underrepresented multicultural communities, including refugees. Create NSW is progressing these actions and provides funding to arts service organisations via the Arts and Cultural Funding Program. This includes funding organisations and projects that engage with people from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds, and that employ people from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds as artists or creative workers.

Given arts and music intersect with every culture in our diverse state, I commend the Committee for its existing consultation efforts, and encourage the Committee to consult widely with people from multicultural communities who have lived experience as students and teachers in the arts, music, and creative industries. MNSW welcomes being contacted by the Committee to discuss other stakeholders that may be relevant to the Inquiry's work.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input and I wish to acknowledge the important work the Inquiry is doing in exploring the need for a broader and more inclusive approach towards arts and music education that considers culturally diverse contexts.

Should you wish to contact us, please do not hesitate to reach out to Vivienne Lam, Associate Director Policy, at

Yours sincerely

Joseph La Posta
Chief Executive Officer