



NSW PARLIAMENT

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **REPORT INTO ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES RELEASED**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**12 December 2024**

The Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales has released its report.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Julia Finn MP, said: 'I'm pleased to announce the release of the report into arts and music education and training in New South Wales. The invaluable evidence that the committee received from a range of stakeholders, including teachers, musicians and artists, students, philanthropic organisations and industry professionals, has informed the 11 findings and 30 recommendations in the report.'

The Chair stated: 'The committee found that that every child in New South Wales deserves the benefits of a high-quality, richly complex creative arts education. However, due to a range of factors, including a focus on STEM subjects and standardised testing, arts and music education is undervalued, leading to broader and systemic neglect in investment. Additionally, economic, geographic, cultural and social barriers often prevent access to quality arts and music education.'

'The committee made recommendations to address these gaps in service delivery in the New South Wales education system from primary to tertiary levels, through policy changes and greater investment. These recommendations support a fundamental shift to reprioritise arts and music not only within schools and the creative industry, but within society as a whole.'

Ms Finn stated: 'The report includes recommendations to support primary school teachers to confidently teach arts and music, including enhancing creative arts content in Initial Teacher education and improving professional development opportunities in these subjects. The committee has also recommended fast tracking the provision of training material for the new K-6 Creative Arts Syllabus.'

'The committee received a great deal of evidence about the importance and benefits of quality, sequential music education. To this end, the committee has recommended that the NSW Government consider developing a Music Education Plan for New South Wales. The committee has also recommended reviewing opportunities to embed First Nations music in the curriculum.'

'The committee has also made recommendations to encourage student enrolments in Stage 6 arts and music courses, such as reintroducing the Visual Arts Extension course and providing accurate information to students and their families about impact of creative arts courses on the ATAR and scaling.'

The Chair said: 'The committee also recognised the importance of arts and music organisations and the live entertainment sector to the creative ecosystem. We have made recommendations that address the

acute skills shortage in creative industries, as well as strengthening formal tertiary education and training pathways for those wanting to pursue their passion for arts and music.

The Chair concluded: 'We support the excellent work of regional music conservatoriums. The committee has made recommendations to increase funding to regional conservatoriums and explore opportunities to formalise and strengthen their relationship with the NSW Department of Education. Additionally, the committee made recommendations to support a vibrant and skilled creative arts sector in Western Sydney, including exploring opportunities to open a Music Hub in the region.'

Further information about the inquiry, including the report, can be found on the [inquiry webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Julia Finn, MP on (02) 9637 1656.*