

**Submission
No 74**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

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The importance of art practice to the economy of the State of NSW has been investigated in the past, and been found to generate at least as much economic activity as organised sport. Quite apart from that consideration, I think the committee should consider the happiness and well-being engendered by art in the community. There is plenty of evidence of the beneficial effects of involvement on both physical and mental health. In regional areas, the local Art Gallery is a generator of life-affirming activity for many, and is always a contributor to tourist dollars. Finally, art activity has the effect of keeping creativity going, and for all sorts of reasons, including the effect on youth, that is what we need to equip ourselves for the future. I keep it short, because those are the essential facts.