

**Submission  
No 14**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** City of Shoalhaven Eisteddfod Inc

**Date received:** 13 February 2018

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Submission to:

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT  
The music and arts economy in New South Wales**

From:  
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President  
City of Shoalhaven Eisteddfod Inc

Relevant Terms of Reference addressed in this submission

***(b)policies that could support a diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across New South Wales,***

The development and support of a diverse and vibrant music and arts culture is underpinned by ensuring that all children have the opportunity to experience and benefit from Music and Arts programs implemented by trained and enthusiastic music, drama and art teachers in our schools.

It is apparent to us, from observation of participating schools in our Eisteddfod, that most public schools are struggling to fully implement the NSW Music Curriculum. The lack of resources and trained staff results in Music being of low priority in many schools. This is obvious from the relatively small number of public schools entering choral and instrumental sections. We applaud the teachers who despite their lack of training and expertise, make a sincere effort to give students the opportunity to participate in a public performance other than at school. In one or two schools a music teacher has been appointed in consultation with the Parents and Citizens Association which has fully funded the costs involved. If funds are limited the program is abandoned. This should be of great concern to the government.

In our view the government could address this situation by:

- ensuring that all teachers in public primary schools have had pre service training in Music education (as was the case in the days of Teachers Colleges) and that on going in-service professional development opportunities be provided for all infants and primary teachers.
- considering the appointment of trained itinerant music specialist teachers to work within a cluster of schools to provide and implement music programs and training and support to teachers.
- supporting parents seeking music lessons from private teachers or as part of a peripatetic program at the local school by offering grants similar to those recently announced for assistance with sports club registrations.
- subsidising community bands, music and drama groups to fund the inclusion of aspiring young students in their activities to cover administrative and insurance charges.

- subsidising touring musicians, ensembles and drama productions to enable all students to be involved and not just the ones whose parents can afford the admission charges. Many schools do allow for subsidies to be paid but this often at the expense of funding for other essential resources.
- providing grants to Eisteddfodau, and Music and Dramatic Societies such as Music Shoalhaven, the Albatross Musical Theatre Company and Nowra Players to assist in the promotion of the performing arts and the engagement of local students both in direct involvement and for school groups to attend productions at affordable admission charges.

***(c) policies that could support the establishment and sustainability of permanent and temporary venue spaces for music and for the arts,***

The cost of hiring of venues for the purpose of mounting an Eisteddfod Program or the staging of a Dramatic Performance, Choral Concert , Recital or Ensemble has become a major expense for community organisations. Whilst the venues provided by Shoalhaven City Council are most suitable for Eisteddfod events, the costs involved prevent many families from being fully involved as year by year we have to raise admission charges to our events.

We understand the need for Public Liability Insurance, local regulations as to usage of facilities , hire of equipment and payment of venue staff all of which add to the cost we have to pass on to our supporters. Inevitably it is the not so well off families that miss out.

The permanent spaces we use are ideal for our purposes, the cost of using them is becoming increasingly unsustainable. The alternative is for community groups to make use of less than suitable alternate venues such as school multi purpose units or church halls which often cannot be accessed during school hours.

The Enquiry Committee should seek means to assist groups such of ours by offering grants/subsidies to Councils so that the community hiring rates can be pegged or reduced for community groups which have as their main purpose the promotion of music and the performing arts and through which they are making a significant contribution to the development of a “diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across NSW”.

George B Windsor OAM