

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 15 February 2018

Partially
Confidential

I'm not great with words so I've used some of the suggested headings from the Music NSW website to help me complete this form.

What you do, and why you do it:

I am an audio technician by trade and currently working freelance for a number of venues around the city on both corporate and entertainment events. I also DJ in nightclubs and on local radio occasionally and assist with the promotion of small events (mostly unpaid).

What works, what gives you hope about your local music community

Events that attract people for the mutual love of music (or other passions) rather than drinking create incredible communities. People are more approachable at these events and violence of any sort is extremely rare, in fact you're far more likely to experience aggression on Sydney's roads during the day than in any nightclub I've ever been in.

What's not working right now / what are the challenges

The main challenge is purely finding suitable venues for music events. The majority of the events I have been involved in are small and attract 300 or less people. A large number of venues of this size have closed in Sydney since the lockout laws. Others have been sold and re purposed as eating or drinking establishments. Of those that remain, most charge an escalated hire fee or insist on high minimum bar spends which makes putting on small events uneconomical.

Many promoters of small music events have resorted to the grey area of hosting 'invite only' in private warehouses as a result.

What issues concern you/ should be addressed

It is not economical for a venue to open in Sydney with the main aim of promoting small musical events. Venues that do often have to rely on income from pokies or encouraging alcohol sales.

How they can help – what changes can they introduce to make it easier for you to do what you do.

Relax lockout laws. A venue that can serve alcohol all night can increase it's revenue. Allowing customers to leave and enter a venue whenever they want actually decreases drunkenness as they are able to spend time away from the bar, get some air, some food, tea, coffee, softdrinks etc before returning to the venue at a later time. Allow people to move freely between venues in the city without threat of being 'locked-out'.

Allow the venue the benefit of the doubt when it comes to noise complaints. I have worked at a music venue in the middle of the CBD which was threatened with closer at 5pm on a Saturday afternoon. Almost one thousand people had their entertainment affected because one person complained. This is unreasonable, the CBD is a noisy place (especially during the day) and people who chose to live there need to accept that.

Create a real entertainment quarter. One which is based around music, arts and culture; not the soulless chain cafes, pubs and restaurants that currently occupy the area at Moore Park.

Encourage venues to offer entertainment based around music and local community. For example, how about offering venues incentives (tax rebates?) to feature local music acts.

What you're willing and able to do to assist them with change

I have been involved in Sydney's music scene since I arrived in the city in 2006. I do it for the passion for the community surrounding the music I make and play. For the most part I do it unpaid and I will continue to do it in the future.

Thanks for reading!