

**Submission
No 32**

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

Name: Mr Jose Antonio Horna

Date received: 16 February 2018

Dear Parliamentary Committee,

I am submitting this as a music maker, fan and as a Sydneysider who has seen the opportunities to connect and engage with fellow Sydneysiders diminish in a short amount of time.

The problems are clear, our society is too disconnected. Every day we are becoming more and more disenfranchised from the bigger culture surrounding us, and instead we are driven to be as isolated as possible. The impact of this is that we are less open to difference, less understanding to different perspectives and less willing to help a fellow person.

You may think that to say music and music events can ameliorate these effects is too far reaching. However, recently reading "Lost Connections" by Johann Hari has reinforced these ideas for me. The sense of belonging to a group is essential. The sense of having authority over your work and future is as well. As is achieving a purposeful existence.

Music achieves this. When you attend a music event, you see that you belong to a community of like-minded people who want to experience something which connects us not only to each other, but to our history as humans. When you are given opportunities to share your music with these people, you feel purpose in your life. If these opportunities could provide a decent income, then you feel more stability and control over your future.

How can this be done? Make the overheads for producing music events cheaper. Sydney is already too expensive and it's a difficult decision to choose what to spend your money on when there is little left after rent and food. There should be subsidies for music events in order to make ticket prices cheaper. Recoup these by profit-sharing in ticket sales. This is just an idea, but the premise is just to give a financial incentive for people to attend music events. The other incentives are strong, but should you need to go into debt for it?

I sincerely hope you can find ways to help music and culture grow and foster a diverse, supportive and welcoming city.