

**Submission
No 49**

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

Name: Ms Lily Chapman

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Music and musical exploration has been one of the most monumental parts of my childhood and my adolescence. Some of my oldest memories are of me and my sister performing for our families, or acting like the world was our literal stage at each other's birthday parties.

I have been a singer since I was 5. I am now 17 and I cannot express to you how important music has been for my development. Throughout high school, I have studied music. The subject is the outlier amongst my other as I also studied biology, physics, chemistry, advanced english, mathematics and extension mathematics. Music at school has allowed me to take a slight break, the subject matter is difficult but the pressure from teachers and the enjoyment of the subject has helped me to be able to destress from the workload of my other studies. Music at my school, much like others, is often shoved aside in terms of funding. This affects our ability to learn, and develop a personal connection to music. Music to me is one of the most important subjects in schools, because it allows students to express the emotions, develop a sense of creativity and helps us to find who we are.

However, music is also important for me in areas outside of school. As someone who suffers with mental health problems, I have taken part in numerous forms of CBT. Personally, the one of these sessions that was most helpful for me revolves around music therapy. Music not only helped me to express creativity, but it was also an outlet to relieve the pain of mental illness plus it functioned as a coping mechanism against my anxiety/depression.

I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting the music industry. This includes creating/supporting existing venues for budding artists, creating spaces where people <18 can view concerts and places where young people can communicate their talents to a crowd of like-minded people. Music means the world to me, my music taste is something I never fail to brag about and my experiences with concerts are permanently engrained in my memory as some of the most incredible nights of my life.

My biggest suggestion is creating initiatives and programs for school students, including low SES schools in regional areas of NSW, that allow them to showcase their talents, meet new people with similar passions and give hopeful artists an insight into certain careers in music.