

**Submission
No 59**

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

Name: Mr Steve McLeod

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As a musician and educator, I believe music is paramount to our lives and well-being. I have been an active musician for over 40 years and have seen the industry flourish and decay over this time. In particular the regional areas music industry has almost completely died from lack of support by venues capable of sustaining that industry with a little imagination and incentive.

How do young people with an interest/passion in music see or learn what good performance is, if they can't experience live music in a local venue. There is no comparison to watching a concert on a T.V. screen compared to a witnessing a great live performance.

I am fortunate to live in the Northern Rivers area where contemporary music is still embraced by venues and the public (albeit being poorly paid for the level of dedication and professionalism displayed). However, my experience in other areas is that very few venues are willing to invest in promoting or providing live music performances for the musicians and the public of those areas.

Perhaps more incentives (e.g. tax breaks) and an education program targeted at the clubs, hotels could be provided to display and promote the benefits of live music performances to a community (not only to musicians) as a whole. In doing so we would have a win-win situation where everyone benefits.