

**Submission
No 53**

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

Name: Ms Brooke Mills
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Music is so many things to so many people, and coming from somebody who was a musician, is going to marry a musician and is a strong believer in music as healing therapy, I believe NSW should be supporting those within the music industry as well as encouraging creative minds to explore their musical tendencies. When I was younger, my parents (who were living on a single income) had to fork out thousands of dollars for me to follow my dream of playing in a band (more specifically as a clarinet player). Luckily for me, my parents were able to do so. But many children and their parents do not have the ability to pay for these expensive instruments and the lessons, band camps, etc that come with them. I would love to see programs or grants in place either for the purchase of musical instruments for schools or for talented individuals. The journey of being a musician takes discipline, it takes focus and it takes passion. I am a strong believer that it is a beautiful outlet for many children and a wonderful opportunity for them to learn something unique (reading music is something not everyone can do) but also help in expressing themselves and giving them something positive and creative to focus on. It teaches strength in character and perseverance for challenges that may arise in their adult life.

I am also a believer in continuing to support these musicians into their adult lives, by giving them somewhere to play, supporting venues who support local and live music and relaxing noise laws for the set up and creation of public forums for musicians to unite and play together to create beautiful music. A wonderful example I have seen from this is in Queensland with the Peregian Originals. From what started with some passionate volunteers, an afternoon of music in the park has blossomed into a fortnightly event that sees the performance of local and traveling musicians and a rise in revenue for the small, sleepy town of Peregian. Local businesses benefit from the influx of participants and a community get access to a safe, community focussed event that is free to everyone. It unites a town and all those who visit. With Sydney's night life forever under scrutiny, one of the biggest draw cards of Sydney is slowly dying: It's music scene. Our beautiful musicians and DJs are being punished for the drunken and disgusting behaviour of those who walk the streets intoxicated and causing problems. Yes music venues become a forum for drinking and partying, but with the correct attitudes, I know Sydney musicians and DJs would truly appreciate changes in legislation and venue grants to see the reinvigoration of our music scene. As someone who has never caused problems at a venue and who is passionately supportive of any musician, I am a firm believer that with the right kinds of funding and mindsets in place, we could have the Sydney music scene we long for.

Finally, I would love to see the introduction of funding for music therapy in schools, nursing homes and mental health forums. Music is a healing art and has proven results for Dementia and mental health patients. For your reference, I urge you to check out 'Alive Inside', a wonderful documentary on how an iPod can make all the difference to a dementia patients final years on this Earth. Funding for the introduction of iPod into facilities and the people to run these programs or incentives for individuals to create businesses centred around music therapy, would be a breath of fresh air in a Sydney who once thrived because of music.

I urge you to please listen to my submission, along with those who will also contribute their own thoughts and ideals. I know that many happy memories, and many troubled times, were made all the better and invoke strong emotion because of the music we associate with it. Allow your decisions to centre around the beauty that music creates and the incredible people behind such a powerful source of identity: music.