

**Submission
No 75**

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

Name: Ms Atalya Masi

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Thanks for taking the time to read my submission today regarding “the music and arts economy in NSW”. I’ll be quickly commenting/making suggestions on three of your key points in my response.

1) What’s happened regarding the NSW Night Time Economy Roundtable (which was effectively a response to the extremely negative impact the lock out laws had to the live music and arts scene).

- o Make businesses more accountable to their RSA- do not keep serving patrons who are severely intoxicated and support them when they are asked to leave so they do not cause confrontations and brawls on the street. Police presence (rather than security) is more valuable here. Reward business that promote healthy and responsible alcohol consumption for their patrons.

2) Things that could help create (and more importantly sustain) a diverse and vibrant arts culture.

- o Allow live music venues/licensed venues to be open after 10pm on weeknights and 12am on weekends. Many musicians finish work after 10pm and would like safe spaces to listen to/ engage in the arts scene after these hours.

- o Support venues that encourage the performance of live music- these venues are the backbone of our night-time economy

- o Music NSW raises an excellent point by stating the need to “Support programs that work towards the music industry being representative of NSW people – including specific programs for women and GNC artists, regional artists, artists with disability, western Sydney artists and young artists”

- o Reinstate additional funding to the Arts Sector through organisations such as the Australia Council (which funds NSW programs) and Create NSW. Ensure this funding is given equally to contemporary arts and music as well as ‘fine arts’/ ‘art music’ organisations

- o Reinstate outdoor events with high profile arts organisations (such as the Sydney Symphony and Opera Australia) at the Domain in addition to events in Western Sydney. Ensure these events perform large scale works in addition to “classical music’s greatest hits”/ playlisting.

- o Encourage the funding of ‘commissions’ of new art and music- within these funding models, give these commissions multiple performance/exposure opportunities/ additional funding when the premiere performances are well received.

- o Give additional funding to organisations that support broadcasts of these events as a means of future publicity. The ABC (through Classic FM and Triple J), Fine Music FM and Koorie radio do this exceptionally well (in Sydney) and should be supported for doing this. Community radio and the journalism industry should be supported as they write about and publicise these events

- o Provide suitable public transport options to attend these events (and support rail workers right to strike when conditions regarding increased public transport services and compulsory overtime do not align)

3) Things that could help establish and sustain venues for arts (temporary and permanent)

- o Allow smaller licensed venues to stay open later so that other venues do not become as highly concentrated (which has the potential to lead to increased alcohol related violence while people are waiting outside in long queues after being “kicked out” of a pleasant venue)

- o Support venues/small businesses with funding to stay open later so the venue does not have to charge an entry fee to their patrons after 9-10pm

- o Encourage arts events to occur in spaces outside casinos. Their intentions are not for the greater good of the wider community and encourage unhealthy habits regarding alcohol consumption and gambling. We have had such a tough stance regarding alcohol related violence

- o Support the use of “vacant government property and commercial spaces for art and cultural offerings”. This is done very well during periods such as the Sydney Festival and Vivid and needs to continue throughout the year.

- o Ensure the ICC centre has enough space and building specifications to be an adequate replacement for the Sydney Entertainment Centre. If it cannot be, create an arts venue within the CBD that can fulfil this need. Stadiums in Homebush cannot deliver the same quality of sound that slightly smaller venues like the old Entertainment Centre can.

- o Ensure all local businesses (retail) are purchasing APRA licenses to play music (rather than playing Spotify with all their advertisements). Give funding to support this process.

Finally, The City of Sydney did a wonderful survey regarding their constituents' responses to the lock out laws and how they wanted to engage with the arts in the evening and on weekends. I would highly encourage you to refer to this when continuing your discussions to create improved policy. Their targeted questioning regarding venue types, preferred opening hours and areas of concentration for permanent and temporary venues should be considered. Other local government areas should be given funding by the state government to investigate the needs of their constituents in the same way.

For context

- What you do, and why you do it: I'm a music educator in a NSW public school. I also work as a conductor/ professional singer with non-for-profit organisations such as Gondwana Choirs, Cantillation (which supports our recording profile in national and international films) and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (who sing frequently with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra)
- What works, what gives you hope about your local music community: in spite of funding cuts, the organisations I work with create/support the following initiatives. Indigenous programs (Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir); new commissions for choirs through artists in residence (Gondwana Choirs; Sydney Philharmonia Choirs); State Music Camp, InConcert and Schools Spectacular through The Arts Unit (part of the Department of Education). The fact that they can deliver exceptional music in spite of this now is phenomenal. They won't be able to continue doing this in the next five years without significant support and a reinstating of funding.
- What's not working right now / what are the challenges- no venues open when we finish work at the Opera House without a cover charge; live music venue options are limited- when these are 'locked out (11pm)' we have to wait in line to attend venues with playlisted music where patrons are severely intoxicated.
- What you're willing and able to do to assist them with change: I'll keep educating my students in support live arts/theatre/music by taking them to events (if you can make them all ages that would be even better!) and donating to the arts sector when I can afford to so that these initiatives can be supported.

Thanks for your time reading my submission today.