

**Submission
No 85**

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

Name: Ms Amy Wilson

Date received: 19 February 2018

Hi there,

I'm a Sydney-based musician who has been playing live music for close to 10 years in bands and as a solo artist. I play music because I love it and although I love Sydney everyone knows that it's probably the hardest city to live in in Australia if you're an artist. This is due to many factors including housing and rehearsal space. affordability I have considered moving to Melbourne many times - and I'm not alone.

Since I've been a musician it's been a lot harder than other cities find appropriate venues for more experimental music and source touring funding.

Sydney has always had a thriving DIY/non-commercial music scene that goes largely unsupported (and is often hindered) by local and state government. This DIY scene is what makes Sydney music interesting, innovative and exciting. It allows a more diverse range of artists (non cis white males) to have a voice and be seen.

Here are a few thoughts about what the state government might be able to do to support exciting and innovative music in Sydney:

- Work with local government to support smaller and unconventional venues by making it easier for them to exist. These venues are the places where exciting new music is coming from and that often allow more marginalised people to take to the stage and have a voice.
- Help Sydney bands to share what they do with the rest of the country/world through more state-funded national and international touring grants. For example, Victoria is far more supportive of international touring than NSW is and that's part of the reason why Melbourne is a breeding ground for successful Australian acts on an International stage.
- Provide grants for the creation of new musical works and rehearsal space - start the support for musicians from the beginning of the creative process. Foster exciting new ideas.

In summary, supporting smaller/non-conventional venues and providing touring and writing grants will have many positive effects on NSW's creative output and reputation as an innovative state.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I trust the Parliament of NSW will seriously consider my recommendations.

Best,
Amy Wilson