

**Submission
No 100**

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

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I am a social scientist, a teacher (of music, swimming, skiing and primary school, as well as a musician. I live in Byron Bay. I have a good understanding of music from both a musical perspective and also from a social science perspective. I conducted a 3 Month Internship with Trevor Khan MLC in 2016 for my final semester in my Social Science Degree. The Maths involves in creating our instruments and musical understanding that we take for granted in the first place is phenomenal, and explains why music is so universal. Music, and the communities that form around the appreciation of music is a perfect remedy for our capitalistic and individually focussed society. With a costly mental health crisis on our hands, I would say that our loss of community engagement has possibly a causal relationship with our growing mental health crisis. Music transcends culture, it transcends everything, especially the rhythmic aspect of music - dance etc. This is why music has the power and utility of bringing people together. All indigenous cultures celebrated music and it was central to community bonding. Also the didgeridoo is a fascinating instrument and this has the potential to preserve and champion aspects of Aboriginal culture within broader Australian society. The concept of a corroboree is an incredibly powerful event that is recreated in a quasi kind of way at music festivals across the country that so often receive scrutiny in the media. In a time where community is very much in decline - church attendance dropping, scout attendance dropping, trade unions membership etc. Music has the potential to fill the hole in our society where a sense of community once held a strong foothold. It is imperative we respect, champion and celebrate our musical culture as it serves in the best interests of a healthy, functioning and community minded society and is a perfect antidote and balance for the cultural consequences of capitalism and neoliberalism.