

**Submission
No 125**

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

Name: Mr Brendan Gallagher

Date received: 21 February 2018

Dear committee members,

I'm a long time music practitioner and resident of Sydney. In the past thirty years I've produced over thirty albums, more than half as an artist - indigenous luminaries like Jimmy Little, LJ Hill, Emma Donovan, Kutcha Edwards and Oz music icons Doc Neeson, Jeremy Oxley, Jesse Younan, Dave Mason & more. I've played on recordings for artists like David Bowie, Jimmy Little & Kylie Minogue, and am the author of *The Open Tuning Chord Book For Guitar*, first published in 1994.

I've worked in education at TAFE, AIM, JMC, SAE and the Bondi WAVE youth music program off and on for fifteen years. I've played gigs all over the world, with Karma County and others, from Sydney Opera House to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, to Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

I still perform regularly, interstate and overseas, but not much in Sydney. I think Sydneysiders have lost the music patronage gene. It's been bled out by a consistent, undeclared war against venues and artists by the wowsers in this city. They have successfully militated against the maintenance of a mutually beneficial relationship between musicians and audiences. The liquor laws have had a demonstrably, deleterious effect, this patronising social experiment punishing small business owners and artists alike, instead of punishing bad behaviour.

I honed my craft in the small but effervescent crucible of the Sydney pub scene - The Hopetoun, The Sando, The Annandale, The Rose of Australia etc. This creative inner city archipelago launched and sustained many careers and gave Australia, and the world, a unique music canon. It has been obliterated. There seems to be this inexorable slide towards Sydney becoming an expensive retirement village with a view. Just real estate, no soul.

What to do? It's probably too late, the city's night time culture has probably changed too much. But a start would be to stop treating taxpayers like children, confirm Sydney as a truly international city and kick the liquor laws into the long grass where they belong alongside the Volstead Act and other follies.

I play a handful of Sydney gigs a year, but not for money, there isn't any, but for fun and friendship, and to remind those wowser bastards I'm still here.

Brendan Gallagher

Music Producer/Composer

Writer/Director APRA Board

Executive Councillor International Council of Music Creators (CIAM)

Vice Chair Asia Pacific Music Creators Alliance (APMA)