

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

To whom it may concern.

I became a professional musician in the Sydney scene at the age of 17 while still a high school student. I also worked in pubs after leaving school to supplement my income. I chose pubs and clubs because of the symbiotic relationship they had to MY music industry.

It has been devastating to see stages ripped out in favour of poker machines. Pool tables gone in favour of TAB terminals and now Keno invading the bars.

I also taught around 50 students a week only to see them have no place to play live. I have seen property developers and councils collude to drive out established businesses in favour of new dense housing development.

I have also seen game shows replace A&R scouts looking for genuine hard working talent.

I still manage pubs to this day as well as owning a recording studio dedicated to developing independent unsigned artists as well as dealing with some well established ones.

What we have seen overall is a systematic destruction of anything fun or creative in favour of "easy money". There needs to be an incentive to the pub owners to get back on board. Downsizing to only 10 poker machines should get you a grant for a PA system for example. Pulling out pokies all together should get you even more.

Pubs have become B-grade casinos and blocking any attempt to start up dedicated music venues is a disgrace. Such as what happened with the Sydenham creative hub. Now we have a block of flats going up opposite The Annandale Hotel how long will their comeback last?

Thanks