

Submission  
No 152

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 22 February 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

I am working as Arts Health officer for South East Arts NSW which has running projects using musicians to provide relief and support to hospital patients and marginalised people in the community.

The NSW Government - NSW Health has an arts health strategy but there is no on-going funding to coincide with this strategy. Arts and Health is supported with strong evidence and research about the benefits of engaging community and creative people. Arts Health can employ artists and musicians to support marginalised and vulnerable people and increase the economy in regional NSW.

As an artist in a regional area any employment that utilises my skills and can assist artists to engage with community is beneficial. Community development style work addressing health, mental health and drug and alcohol issues and employing local people will boost the economy. Arts Health has the potential to create positive outcomes for both creative people - musicians and communities that can then thrive by being more resilient and connected.

This is an important issue that needs NSW Government attention because it could help to build and support regional communities of musicians and artists. Please assist Arts Health grass roots approaches in our community by providing funding support to a whole of community approach.

The three target areas South East Arts NSW is working with includes

1. The cultural integrity, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities
2. Mental health, wellbeing and resilience amongst young people
3. Creative ageing for older people

I hope you provide action to regional creative communities so their voices can be heard.