

**Submission
No 147**

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

Name: Ms Kim McNaughton

Date received: 22 February 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am a 43 year old woman who has been singing in the local music industry throughout the Hunter region NSW since 17 years of age. I have also released an EP of original material. I truly believe that music has many beneficial health effects like inducing emotion, enhancing expression and connection, facilitating memory, and can be a means by which one finds identity and purpose. However, the music industry is not all glam, but sometimes wham (to coin a phrase from Grace Knight of the Eurogliders).

The aspects of performing music during my life, that I believe could be addressed through policy and initiatives are:

- Incentives that increase the uptake of music by females, all ages
- improved working conditions, financially (the money has not changed much in 20+ years, certainly not in line with the CPI) and better workplace related conditions (sexual harassment by male musicians is common - there is usually one in every band greater than a trio) - incentives and programs to nurture original artists (without original material, there'd be no covers)
- mentoring programs for musicians of all ages, particularly female musicians (it can be a dog eat dog industry with people stealing your equipment, original ideas, material, etc)
- business support (too few musicians know about how to run a business with an ABN, or how to market themselves)
- live music venue support (no venues, no gigs) - also, better etiquette from venues. Once venues provided you with a meal and drinks free. Accommodation if the travel was more than 1 hour. This rarely happens now. - investment in the mental health of those working in the entertainment industry (entertainment assist provides some compelling research around the risk factors and state of mental health and well-being in the entertainment industry)
- better promotion of funding or scholarship opportunities for musicians (you can't access what you don't know about)
- more community activities that include and support the creative arts in general, specifically original artists. Employment opportunities, not exposure opportunities
 - establishment of local collaboratives for musicians, free from agents - that enable musicians to deal directly with hiring venues/events managers (agents who secure a niche of venues in a local sector can become like dictators, ensuring that only their acts get work. Many talented artists fall by the wayside due to exclusivity)
- better representation of our Australian artists in media, and with AirPlay (we have a small population relative to other countries. To grow the sector, we need to show our artists that we support them)

These are just a few ideas, that pop into my mind while I take 20 minutes to write this, and at least have a say.

Thank you for your interest.

Kind regards,
Kim McNaughton.