

**Submission  
No 146**

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

**Organisation:** Fusion Boutique  
**Date received:** 22 February 2018

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Specialising in original live music, Fusion Boutique has been presenting a large range of quality acts in the Blue Mountains for over 8 years, particularly in the genres of Folk, Balkan & Gypsy Jazz, Swing, Bluegrass, Americana, Old Time and Blues.

We have also reinvigorated a number of Blue Mountains venues as well as creating new performance space opportunities.

Fusion Boutique was established by Charity Mirow as a boutique agency driven by a passion for sourcing, presenting and promoting national and international bands and events with a diverse range of genres, and a big focus on our local talent.

We have such an appreciative music loving community here who love the opportunity to enjoy great and high calibre acts in this beautiful location rather than having to travel to Sydney to experience these shows.

Challenges that we face are presenting these acts in a lower socio economic regional area while attempting to keep events accessible and still covering all costs.

We create special events in intimate formats but not having suitable venues to accommodate larger crowds also contribute to it being difficult to cover all costs.

Not having a regional tourism body to help in promotion is also a great challenge.

We are regional but appear to not be eligible for a lot of support or coverage when it comes to it and are classed as part of Sydney.

The biggest challenge that we do face is lack of public transport options. With some of our larger concerts the headline act is still performing when the last train on a Friday or a Saturday night is due to leave to go back down the Mountain.

Also a lot of grants are generally only applicable to not for profits or for new initiatives.

Generally venues are also struggling themselves or imposing prohibitive arrangements i.e. large venue hire fees which can't be accommodated.

We love contributing to the culture in our area however it is difficult to sustain especially with the ongoing financial and time constraints.

[www.fusionboutique.com.au](http://www.fusionboutique.com.au)