

**Submission
No 160**

INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Australian Songwriters Association Inc (ASA)

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Working for and with the grassroots of the music industry, primarily young and emerging and underexposed songwriters, it is very obvious that these people need better funding. They struggle because full time work depletes their creative energies. The Government needs to understand that art cannot be created without space - that being time and the opportunity for quiet contemplation. The stereotype of musicians being 'on the dole' exists not because they are lazy, but because they need to be able to dedicate themselves to their craft, and to follow the path that their passion and talent leads them. Just as surely as a Grant pool is reduced, our pool of songwriters (potentially huge money makers for Australia), will dry up and our whole nation will suffer accordingly, in more ways than one.

The benefits of music are far reaching in our society, and it is vital that our politicians, who have a completely different modus operandi, can broaden their perspective and come to understand that lots of small Grants, available to a diverse array of musicians, would significantly assist healthy growth in this vital industry. Recent funding given to inner city venues breathed some oxygen into the scene. May there be many more. Musicians don't need a lot of money...just enough to give a good number of them breathing space and inspiration.