

Submission
No 181

**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,

From living in other cities that pride themselves in their live music scenes, like New York, Berlin, Amsterdam and Melbourne, it is hard fit all the problems with the Sydney music scene in one submission. But with a positive outlook, I believe there are many things that the NSW govt can do to bring people together through music. I think it is important to consider to forms of live music presentation in Sydney.

1. The 'European' style and tradition of the sit-down concert. A place for artists to express themselves through sound and performance. This is a place for audiences to escape, to be entertained, to meditate, to be challenged, to reflect, to interact, to participate, to reimagine.
2. The band in the corner. The role of the musician to create an atmosphere for people to come together, have a drink, have a meal, talk, engage, dance. To create a sound track for their night.

Both these forms create a place for people to 'bump' into each other, and in a world where we constantly communicate on our phones to organise or cancel social engagements, music performances provide some of the few places to meet or meet up with new, old or soon-to-be friends.

As a professional musician, I constantly swing between these types of performances and take pride in connecting with an audience whatever the situation. But neither the concert style performance nor the band in the corner are supported by the Sydney lifestyle, culture or government policy.

For our concert culture to grow we must better facilitate our local original music scene. In terms of government policy this can be done by:

- 1 providing more cheap or free spaces to rehearse
- 2 subsidising mentorship programs between emerging and established musicians
- 3 subsidising venues who commit to putting on original venues
- 4 helping promote original local music through messaging and spokespeople

For the band in the corner culture, the government could consider:

- 1 relaxing laws for cafes, small bars and restaurants to have music and having faith in professional musicians being respectful of noise levels
- 2 supporting venues in having live music instead of the one or complaints that comes from neighbours (and instead actually asking the general community if they like having live music on their street
- 3 creating (several) hubs in Sydney where music can be played late. Redfern for example has an incredible small bar culture, but it shuts down just as people start to really connect and engage with their environment and other adults looking for meaningful interactions with their fellow Sydney-siders
- 4 more subsidies for 'busking' festivals and outdoor music events

These are just a few ways in which the government, if it was really passionate about bringing Sydney out of a dark period for live music in the city, could help provide the space for the scene to regrow and for the people of the city who consistently complain about the lack of culture to feel like the government is hearing their frustrations.