

**Submission  
No 176**

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

**Name:** Ms Tina Marsden

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Hello,

I am a freelance flautist and teacher of over 20 years standing. I've had the good fortune to be part of music education and performance systems in Bavaria, Germany and Queensland at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. I've been working as a flute teacher in NSW since 2000. Working in different systems has allowed me to realise first hand what works well and what doesn't.

The major difference I perceive begins at primary school level, where in QLD and in Germany, nearly every single child is given the opportunity to engage in class music lessons and/or learn an instrument. Queensland's band and string programme teachers are a rightful part of the Qld Education Department. They are given the status they deserve and have rights that all other teachers are accorded.

In NSW it is rare for students at primary school level to have regular access to consistent classroom music education through their schooling. Usually it's the P and C Association has the monumental task of running the instrumental programs at public schools - this is really the hugest ask for a parent-run group. NSW children need exposure to regular music lessons, coupled with the opportunity to learn instruments subsidised by the government. I was one such child in Queensland who believes in this system and never would have started learning an instrument, had it not been for their excellent music programme run by the Dept. of Education. I've also seen in Germany, how true music learning begins with structured exposure to music and opportunity at a young age (I taught primary and secondary students for 4 years, while completing a University music degree).

As a tutor of the flute in NSW, I find it frustrating not to have any form of accreditation accorded to me, other than 'tutor'. I spent 10 years studying the flute at a tertiary level both overseas and in Australia, and yet I am still not accredited enough to be considered for a higher wage, nor any work title other than 'casual'. It is an under regulated area and we have no union. I've heard awful stories of teachers working at schools for 7 years, and this year turning up to find they have no contract with that school any more. This is undignified for any worker. There must be better ways to treat people who do this job because they really love what they do.

And as an aside, I have taught at one NSW public school for 6 years in a renovated stair well, made fit for lessons. This does not do much to lift morale for how music is perceived as not being a valued part of the school curriculum. It's being edged out by all the other subjects, thanks to NAPLAN. We're no longer allowed to teach many hours during school time and this has resulted in fewer students wishing to learn.

In summary, I would like to see NSW adopt a music education system akin to Qld or W.A, and to provide a format of accreditation and title for peripatetic instrumental teachers. Music has such far reaching applications to life across all ages - it's too precious to mistake it as being a subject of lesser importance.

Thankyou for considering my submission.

Best wishes,

Tina