

Submission
No 191

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I am a samba percussionist with two community samba bands. The bands that I am in perform samba music usually in a voluntary capacity with occasional paid gigs.

I am concerned that in NSW and especially in Sydney the opportunities for amateur and professional musicians are becoming increasingly difficult and limited.

It is of concern that the number of rehearsal spaces in Sydney are disappearing, particularly closer to the city but in other areas as well.

It is also of concern that the number of venues where bands can perform and where people can come and watch are disappearing as well.

This includes not only licensed venues but also outdoor spaces which are open for families to come and watch.

I believe that a combination of high lease costs and licensing laws are forcing studios and entertainment venues to close, particularly in the CBD and inner city suburbs. Many licensed venues which have encourage musicians to perform have replaced performance spaces with gaming machines.

I believe that various noise abatement laws have prevented the establishment of live music and rehearsal studios from being established.

The recent lock-out laws seem to have been followed by the closure of many night time venues, with Sydney rapidly losing its status as a great place to spend a night out. Melbourne and Adelaide which don't have these laws in place seem to have a thriving live music scene with more opportunities for bands to perform and people to watch musicians of all sorts in action.

I would like the NSW Parliament and Government to consider the following courses.

1. The creation of one or many performance zones in the Sydney CBD, inner city and larger suburban centres where musicians, dancers and other entertainers can have open air and studio rehearsal areas, along with outdoors and indoors performance areas. The places would allow for grassroots performances to be nurtured and provide people the opportunity to watch them in action.
2. Greater opportunities for outdoors performances to take place, with park or street parties taking place. I have seen this in Adelaide and overseas cities as varied as Seattle, Santiago, Rio and elsewhere. These are big community events that allow everyone to appreciate the value of live music and give cities and local communities an important outlet for getting together.
3. There should be greater incentives for licensed premises to operate without gaming machines. Cheaper licensing for venues which feature live music would be a great way of encouraging pubs and entertainment venues to hire musicians.
4. A review of the laws which allow performance spaces to be closed down whenever there is a complaint. I find it strange that so many places in the Sydney CBD and inner city that for years have had live music have closed down because someone who has just moved into the area doesn't like the music. This is even more strange in areas that are a commercial zone.
5. A review of the lockout laws which have turned a lot of parts of the CBD into a ghost town. The barring of entry to venues at 1:30 does not give people who work in the entertainment industry time to wind down and have deterred entertainment venues from operating at all. The 3:00 pm closure (which coincides with taxi changeover) effectively strands people in the city.

6. Improving public transport options for people after 1:30 pm. The only options people have for getting home are expensive cab and Uber services, driving, or a very erratic and unreliable Nightbus service. Restoring early morning train services will encourage people to go out and get home safely, and allow musicians to get their instruments home without relying on a car or a taxi.