

Submission
No 202

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 26 February 2018

Partially
Confidential

Monday 26 February

Parliament of NSW

MRS MACQUARIES RD, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: NSW Music Policy

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked in the music business for over 25 years in Sydney. My work has included working as security and as an event organiser in many nightclubs in Kings Cross and Oxford ST through the '90s and into the 2000s. From the late '90s to the present day, I have worked as an event promoter. These events have ranged in attendance from 1,000 to 3,000 people at Maroubra Seals Club and the Metro Theatre on George ST. This was in the early part of the millennium. Throughout the early 2000s, I arranged many events at Sydney Olympic Park for up to 5,000 to 10,000 participants. In the present day, I arrange security for large scale music festivals for up to 30,000 participants.

It is my experience that most drugs and drug dealers are caught through covert operations with security and police. The drug dogs are relatively ineffective in catching drug dealers. The drug dealers seem to outsmart the dog operations. The primary victims of dog operations are small-time users with one or two ecstasy pills and many, many innocent young people.

The real question is, are the drug dogs preventing people from taking drugs? There is little evidence that the drug dogs are deterring people from taking drugs. In my experience, drug dogs do not stop people from smuggling drugs into festivals. The drug dogs are inaccurate in detecting the drugs on the victims. In fact, there is evidence suggesting that some young people may ingest all their drugs in a panic if they see the drug dogs and have an overdose. I have been present in such unfortunate situations.

It is humiliating and embarrassing for most of the innocent people who get picked by drug dogs. The young people who have a drug dog sit next to them have no rights to refuse to take off their clothes in front of a stranger and squat on the ground. This is humiliating for the 80% of innocent people who do not have any drugs. How would you like this to happen to your children or grandchildren?

At the end of the day, why does the NSW government support clean legal injection rooms in Kings Cross? They support and help the lives of people who take heroin, yet NSW is spending \$9,000,000 per year to harass mainly the innocent or some young people who may have one or two ecstasy pills, on them. It would seem that heroin addicts in Kings Cross are treated with fairness and compassion. However, our children and grandchildren are shamed and humiliated if they get picked up by drug detection do, innocent or not.

Please stop wasting the \$9,000,000 a year and put the money to good use and build more schools. Alternatively, spend the \$9,000,000 going after the big drug dealers at the top of the drug tree. The drug dogs are a humiliating invasion of young people's privacy, and they are ineffective at music festivals.

The war on drugs is unwinnable. Having dogs makes it seem that the police are doing something about drugs, and it is good PR for the government and looks good on TV. However, the war on drugs is utterly unwinnable, and the dogs have no impact on the supply or demand of drugs at a music festival.

To conclude, please stop with the drug dogs at music festivals and events. Young people in NSW should be able to enjoy themselves at music festivals when they go out instead of being fearful of getting picked up by ineffective drug dog operations across the state.

Yours Sincerely,