

Submission
No 300

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Hi,

I Appreciate NSW Parliament taking the time to review the below submission in regard to live music and NSW nightlife.

What you do, and why you do it.

I work within the live music Electronic events and festivals space have done so since 2009. I am a contractor and have worked on a range of events from smaller 1K-2K pax events multiple national touring festivals upto 15K Pax and destination festivals of upto 30K.

I have worked on international festivals of up between 16k- 70K pax and upto 200 Artist around the globe. I work on the Artist relations, touring and buying side on events and also work in production offices and on Guestlists.

I do it because I like to deliver people the moments which help to create the soundtrack to their life. I do because I believe life should be lived large and to fullest.

I do it because I get to deliver people incredible experiences, Artists they would otherwise have to get on planes to Europe or the states to see, whilst supporting local talent growth and development.

What works, what gives you hope about your local music community

What works is there is a lot of creative people dedicated to delivering unique sounds and experiences and important cultural influence to NSW and Australia despite the obstacles put in place by our government and corporates.

What's not working right now / what are the challenges

There are few areas which are not working:

A) Lockout laws the restrictions place on venues are forcing great live venues to close, which is resulting in less venues available to deliver live music and culture to NSW.

This having a knock-on effect with reduced jobs within events and hospitality. Reduced tourism spend in NSW as the world has adopted a view of NSW being a Nanny State.

This is resulting in a NSW Creative brain drain as a lot of our talent form multiple areas including: Artists, Production, creative and technical bookers, event management, décor artists, is leaving Sydney for Melbourne where there is increased employment opportunities due to less restrictions on Live events and clubs.

This is also the case for a lot of hospitality workers and security who have faced reduced employment opportunities and shifts

B) No Tolerance Drugs policy within NSW and Australia, Sniffer Dogs at festivals is not working its resulting in a higher no of overdoses and ultimately deaths within our younger demographic.

C) Cost of doing Events and Festivals is an obstacle to creating more music and cultural events and also creating sustainable business models:

- High cost of user pay police to enforce no Tolerance drug policy
- High costs of APRA and PCCA Fees and their monopoly within market.
- High cost of ticketing company booking fees which have monopolised certain venues within the market place

What issues concern you / should be addressed

The REAL cost of implementing outdated ignorant drug policies on young people :is costing lives, when the real issues that need to be addressed are education in terms of influencing and changing young peoples behaviour and choices around drug and alcohol consumption.

ACCC Inquiry and end to monopoly in music licensing organisations and Ticketing company practices not only in NSW but across Australia

The government also needs to look at the residual effect of how much of festival tourism dollar is leaving Australian shores as our millennial generation is attending destination festival events globally instead of supporting our own.

How they can help – what changes can they introduce to make it easier for you to do what you do

They can help by taking a global view and looking to international initiatives and trends for governments to embrace nightlife and recognise its value which has economic, cultural and tourism benefits. Examples of destinations which have implemented these models successfully are Amsterdam, Ibiza and London.

They can help by taking consultation, with medical, youth culture experts, and the electronic Music industry by looking toward global drug policies.

The government needs to look at a harm minimisation and what has worked elsewhere in the sense it has saved lives and is better for the well being of young people on multiple levels.

The government needs to look to destinations such as the Netherlands and London (where pill testing is available) initiatives on Drug policies and the effect on their positive implementation. This will make it easier for us to provide safer and better experiences for our audiences.

They can help by outlawing these monopolies (whom on the licensing side in most case the talent on the shows we promote does not see a direct benefit.)

Put an end to ticketing company monopolies and exorbitant ticketing booking fees in all of larger venues which will result in increased business for venues, increased nos of shows increased and therefore increased employment and career development opportunities for Talent, creatives and promoters.

The government can assist by reducing the promoter cost of doing business and therefore creating more feasible sustainable business models for live music and entertainment and culture thus creating a richer nightlife culture and increasing our tourism.

The government need to get behind this community and industry and assist by supporting promoters and assisting with events.

I think the government at this point needs to put their money where their mouth is and fund or produce a large scale event. which celebrate the electronic music community and nightlife.

The image of Sydney has been tarnished, Sydney is now viewed globally as money hungry casino backing Nanny state. Sydney is dire need of some PR Love and only a large gesture of large event celebrating nightlife and culture can help to instill confidence globally in Sydney as a tourist destination.

What you're willing and able to do to assist them with change

Happy to assist to provide further industry consultation via face to face meeting, surveys etc.