

Submission
No 336

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 27 February 2018

Partially
Confidential

Music and Arts Inquiry Submission

Background:

I have learnt and played music since the age of eight years old. I learnt classical guitar and moved to rock, blues and folk music.

I am an original singer songwriter, guitarist and music promoter.

I play gigs worldwide and also run and promote music events hence providing opportunities for other musicians/artists especially younger up and coming artists.

Issues:

The maximum I have earned from playing original music in Australia is \$5000 a year from my music. This was when I was playing regular gigs (2 – 3 times a week), selling music albums and downloads and receiving APRA royalties.

It is possible to earn more playing cover gigs but that is not supporting or forwarding the progress of new original music.

NSW/Australia vs Overseas:

There is little support for original music in Australia especially live original music. People (promoters, pubs, clubs, etc) often want original acts to play for free or very little money whilst they are making money from entry fees, drink sales, etc. They will however often pay better money for cover bands/acts or DJ's. I find this is especially true in NSW as compared to say Victoria where the scene is better or overseas.

Perhaps venues that support live original music could receive a tax cut or subsidy if they put on and pay original bands instead of covers bands/D.J's

Overseas (Europe and USA) I was paid a reasonable fee and provided with meals, drinks and often accommodation also for my originals gigs. There is a big discrepancy here between gigs in Australia and gig overseas (Europe and USA).

Often it is up to the musicians themselves to get together and organise a gig which requires venue hire, PA hire, advertising costs etc which have to be paid for and if the ticket sales don't cover this the artists are left out of pocket. **Perhaps subsidies or tax cuts to artists that do this could be provided.**

Most musicians are just that, musicians, not promoters, organisers and advertisers.

I have seen a healthy music scene in Sydney in the late 70's and 80's dwindle away due to noise restrictions and other rules or regulations making it too expensive for a venue to continue.

Often noise restrictions have resulted due to people moving next to a music venue and then complaining about the noise knowing full well it was a music venue. You can't do this if you

move next to a school or similar **and should not be able to do this when moving next to an existing music venue.**

Some of the regulations have involved amount of sound proofing or new fire regulations required for a music venue to simply exist. **Perhaps funding could be provided to help venues meet these regulations.**

Some of the licensing laws make it hard for venues to make money from music, especially live original music so perhaps the restrictions imposed could be looked into. An example of this is a restaurant and bar music venue was charging on the door to pay the bands but were told by the licensing police they could not charge on the door. They are not making enough money from their restaurant/bar takings to cover the cost of their staff and pay the bands. **These licensing laws need to be reviewed.**

In summary, incentives to venues, venue owners, promoters and musicians who put on and or play live original music in terms of subsidies and/or tax cuts would be a beneficial move. I have outlined above in bold some of these possible incentives.

It has been shown that music and art are beneficial to people's well-being and the community so it makes sense to support this area. Also a good music and art scene attracts visitors and tourists thereby injecting money into the economy.

Thanks for your time,

Regards