

**Submission
No 225**

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

Name: Ms Ashleigh Jones

Date received: 26 February 2018

Art Consultant at Harvey Galleries

Ashleigh Jones

To: The Honorable Paul Green, MLC, Chair

Re: Submission to the inquiry into the music and arts economy in New South Wales

Dear Mr Green

I am an art consultant working in Sydney. I support a safe, diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across New South Wales.

I believe that live performance venues in Sydney are over-regulated. It is increasingly difficult for myself and my peers to find new or non-traditional spaces in the city – a necessity given the relatively low number of theatres – to stage performance. The process of seeking approval to use new spaces are cumbersome and ineffective, and has resulted in a marked decrease in the number of artists creating work for independent spaces.

Independent producers and artists are generally time poor – frequently holding down a day job while producing – and the state's excessive red tape is a significant burden. It is near impossible to create ambitious work if so much time must be absorbed by seeking development approval to utilise non-traditional performance spaces.

The approval arrangements are also relatively inflexible and frequently create situations where certain art forms, such as dance, are at a disadvantage.

The flow-on effects from this decrease in cultural activity may be yet to be fully realised. Independent and pop-up arts spaces are where Australian artists of all varieties hone their craft and learn the skills that enable them to thrive on the world stage. The value of our cultural exports cannot be overstated, but the current level of regulation puts this future at risk and artists working in Sydney at a significant disadvantage to their international and interstate counterparts.

Warm regards,
Ashleigh Jones

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