

Submission
No 337

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern,

Being an emerging musician is hard.

We need more performance venues and some sort of national recommendation of payment. Musicians are forced to play for free/no payment in order to get 'exposure', or for a VERY low fee at cafe's which doesn't even cover travel costs to get there, if you are outside a metro area. We can't necessarily catch public transport to the gig, we have gear and equipment, often extremely heavy.

AND live music venues are not required to provide a PA system, so often musicians have to foot the bill for that also. It means we are working at a loss constantly.

We need better policies around paying musicians. We also need policy around diversifying our stages. Last year I wrote my honours thesis and investigated the representation of women in the contemporary music industry of Australia. Pretty horrendous.

We need national roll out of incentivised programs to foster and encourage young women to pursue their careers in music. Mentorships, gender representations quotas on boards and governing bodies, industry panels and advisory boards. The music industry is tremendously sexist, and I'm sick of feeling unsafe in my work environment simply because I am a female human.

This is absolutely a serious matter. I graduated my course with many female musicians, we need to investigate why there is a huge gap in representation in the actual industry, and further study and enforcement of policy to PREVENT SEXUAL HARRASSMENT in this industry.

We have incredible musicians, both tertiary educated and self-taught, that have to resort to living off job-seeker payments, in poverty, working jobs they hate that pay terribly, just so we can afford to buy the instrument we need.

Original Australian music could be an AMAZING export of this country, but we need stronger support for emerging artists, authentic support.

There are grants available (I constantly trawl these opportunities), but it is highly competitive, and many musicians are not equipped with the business knowledge to complete these fairly rigorous applications, which include hectic budgeting and responding to key criteria. The artistic portfolio is only a portion of the application.

Touring is SO expensive in this country, everything is far apart and fuel is expensive, PLUS, the performance fees are low for emerging artists. How are we meant to get a foot in the door? So many of us live in poverty for our art.

Yet, our pubs and bars and clubs would be nothing without live music.

We need to implement policies that value the huge cultural contribution that music makes in our lives as Australians. We are not worthless, and it effects mental and physical health and wellbeing to be constantly scraping for opportunities, for a dollar, for a meal, despite immense talent, technical skill, creativity and higher education.

Make a welfare benefit for artists, assess it on the portfolio they provide, create criteria they must satisfy each quarter in order to receive the benefit. Create free or subsidised professional development programs that artists can undertake in order to upskill and become financially independent.

Thank you to the people who have pushed for this inquiry, it is so needed.

26 year old musician