INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Stephen Melrose

Date received: 28 February 2018

My name is Stephen Melrose, I am a 45yr old Australian male that has lived mostly all of my adult life in NSW.

I am a self employed Audio Engineer that has been working in the music industry since 2003.

Most of my employment in that time has been through the live music events sector, including mixing and recording bands.

I have witnessed a negative change within the NSW local music industry since 2003 mostly due to the introduction of large amounts of poker machines in pubs and clubs.

Many of the smaller pubs and clubs across Sydney which I had employment from, renovated to accommodate poker machines and mostly at the sacrifice of their music rooms and performance spaces.

This immediately lead to a decrease in not only my employment capabilities, but it also restricted the over all amount of opportunity for musicians, bands and other entertainers to perform and make earnings.

It is well known there is now a diminishing amount of live music venues in Sydney and I believe it is due to this change in culture in pubs and clubs, which now places an emphasis on gambling and drinking alcohol over live local music.

It worries me that within these modern times many of the remaining live music venues in Sydney are under threat and many existing venues now also have to deal with constant issues from noise complaints.

I don't propose a complete ban on poker machines, but maybe a restriction in pubs and clubs might help..

I propose that some financial encouragement from the State could be given to new or existing live music venues, to support live music more. Live music needs more financial support from State and Local governments. Live music needs State support that allowes existing or even new music venues to be helped with live entertainment costs, sound proofing options, renovations to regain old spaces, or even funding to build new modern state of the art performance spaces.

Thanks

S.Melrose