

**Submission
No 309**

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

Name: Mr Zeljko Golijan

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Dear all,

A world without art is a world without culture and one which will not allow our children to develop mentally into balanced human beings. We know that one side of our brain is directly related to art and music being a huge part of art needs to be given more attention by our law makers. We as parents can support our children and finance their progress in learning to play an instrument. When they eventually grow up there isn't much in the way of support for them to further develop their art and maybe even chose a career in the music industry. Our clubs are not compelled to book musicians and bands. When they get so much money inflows from gambling, poker machines they don't have to consider other forms of entertainment. They rake in millions of dollars in gambling. When they book a band they negotiate ridiculous payment. Anywhere from nothing to \$500. Think about how insulting that is. You have 4 members in a band and there's the sound engineer and the lights and public address system (P.A). Some of us still do because we love playing music. But seriously, there needs to be some sort of structure. A musician needs to be able to be supported and our society needs to be able to listen to live music, otherwise our children will not develop into balanced individuals and a country with our wealth should be able to distribute some of that to our musicians. I can recall there use to be a musicians union back in the 80's and they seemed to have organised where bands could play and if clubs didn't support musicians there would be picket lines etc. Musicians have become a dying breed and there is no structure for musicians and bands alike to perform and be supported. I believe there's a lot the government could do, such as linking certain liquor licences with mandatory requirements to have live entertainment. By possibly giving tax breaks etc. They would already be able to claim the cost of live music as a tax deduction. Not sure how many of them know this. I'm 53 years old and can remember a time when musicians were respected and when we lived in a inclusive society. I can also remember when pubs and clubs didn't have so many poker machines. One club I use to play in actually got rid of the stage and reduced the entertainment area so they could put more poker machines. It's wrong and something needs to be done.