

**Submission
No 366**

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

Organisation: Kingdom Sounds

Name: Ms Bre Smith

Date received: 12 March 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been working directly with the music industry in Newcastle and the Central Coast for almost two years now, and I've got to say, I couldn't imagine doing anything else. Music is the lifeblood of our economy, and I want to make sure that we as a community, are doing everything we can to protect it.

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of working as a stage manager and artists liaison with a number of local and international bands. While I'm not someone who's a veteran of the industry, I believe that the younger generations can offer a fresh perspective and innovative ideas on how we can make live music a more sustainable venture for everyone.

For me, the biggest challenges in the music industry are faced by women and non-binary individuals. We need to look at implementing more programs that will encourage them to join the industry. For example, running workshops on sound tech and stage management would be an excellent start; we need more women backstage. This whole notion that women can't be trusted around electronics is absurd.

Additionally, I think that we need to look into generating more AA events and venues, younger gig goers are missing out on vital education when it comes to gig etiquette and acceptable behaviour at events. Without somewhere to learn these skills and 'rules', the entire audience will suffer as a result, and Newcastle will continue to foster a 'violent gig culture'. The kids are really yearning for live music, so I think that we should really be putting a focus on council owned venues and AA shows.

Finally, in an attempt to get more of the community behind the music industry, we need to get them more involved. By putting on street carnivals and public events, we can entice the residents to join the celebrations rather than lodging complaints against us. Part of this also comes down to noise reduction planning in new buildings and putting more protections on new and existing venues.

I look forward to hearing the outcome, thank you for letting us have a voice.

Cheers,