INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Hi There, I am a full time professional musician / composer/ bandleader/teacher. I have been active since the late 70's. I started my career in Adelaide, moved to Sydney then London and now back in Sydney.

The music scene here in Sydney is at the lowest ebb I have ever seen. It's hard to believe we boasted one of the most vibrant music scenes in the World throughout the 70's / 80's and early part of the 90's. What is left of it is embarrassing considering we are a big economy and a truly international city.
We (Sydney) is overflowing with creative talent with virtually no venues left that will put on anything remotely progressive. Those venues that do remain open are totally suffocated by regressive licensing laws, exacerbated by Casino Mike with the lock out laws etc which have put Sydney in terminal decline.
There is more support for gambling in this city and state than there is for the arts/music and it is a total disgrace.

It is almost impossible now to make even a modest living from the creative arts with gig fees lower than what they were in the early 80's. Most creatives are forced to play weddings and corporate events to make anything like 'real money'. Whilst this is ok on one level it makes no impact on the scene as these are all private events.
The government should be helping not hindering venues, with tax breaks, financial support, and by releasing the pointless stranglehold of Dickensian licensing laws that make it stupidly hard to operate as a live music venue. The casino is a place that destroys lives and in this city it is given free reign to do whatever it pleases and only contributes misery upon the populous whereas live music enhances society in a myriad of ways.

You need to take this seriously as you are prejudicing a whole industry that relies on venues to be able to open without punitive, pointless licensing laws.

Yours very seriously

Jason Bruer