

Submission  
No 404

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

Hello,

My name is . I am a singer/songwriter who has been performing professionally for close to 20 years. I am also a regular gig-goer to shows in and around Sydney. I mainly go to smaller performance venues and I have noticed in recent years that these small venues really struggle to stay afloat and keep on offering performance opportunities for local and interstate/overseas performers. It is my understanding that a lot of the struggles they face have to do with bureaucratic red-tape, managing mountains of regulations/licenses and competing with bars/clubs that offer pokies and broadcast sport offered as entertainment. It would seem that government could make it easier for these smaller venues to operate, with less red-tape, therefore giving venues more time to work on promoting music, artists and performances.

The standard of Sydney's musicians is absolutely world-class, yet most of us struggle to find suitable performance opportunities to showcase these talents. We need venues of all sizes to operate and thrive to encourage more and more wonderful musicians to develop and grow. Sydney is such a fabulous city, with so many outstanding outdoor spaces, and yet compared to other great cities of the world, there is a distinct lack of outdoor music festivals. I believe government could support more festivals, of all sizes, as a way of injecting more musical culture into our fabulous city. Audiences of all ages always love hearing and seeing music in the great outdoors, of which we have a-plenty in this great city of ours. There are definitely much fewer gigs happening around Sydney, and many musicians have commented that many regular gigs have stopped operating due to lockout laws. There also seem to be pockets of Sydney, that were once vibrant with late night entertainment and culture, that have become almost ghost-towns due to bars/venues having to close early. I am a passionate performer and I love this city of ours, but we do need to do so much more to keep musical culture thriving in Sydney.

Music is the heartbeat and soundtrack to our lives. Lets keep it alive and kicking!

Best regards,