

**Submission
No 66**

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Organisation: School Bands Australia

Date Received: 24 August 2020

My name is Martin Davison & I am the Founder & Director of School Bands Australia Pty Ltd.

In brief, we create & deliver Band Programs that educate our youth not only in music but also the social benefits of being involved in a Band Community.

We have been the recipients of the various grants made available by all levels of Government, however, we have now been effectively 'closed down' due to the NSW Governments decision to 'Ban Bands'.

Despite this unfair & illogical ban on our business, we will continue to explore innovative ways to stay connected to our students & keep the playing for what appears to be an extended break. To put some perspective to this statement, I would not have grounds to complain if schools were shut down. The fact that children interact at school at close quarters takes away any argument that can be made that a 'clarinet spreads dangerous amounts of aerosols that might be carrying the COVID-19 virus.

I recently submitted an email to Minister Harwin & other Ministers, with the request to issue additional Creative Kids Vouchers (up to 1 per school term).

To date, I haven't received a response & fully understand that this is an exceptionally busy time.

I was hoping you might be able to do something in regards to my suggestion.

I really believe that the Creative Kids Voucher is one of the most effective ways to assist us & the 800 students that we teach across the 20 schools that we service.

* 100% of the money will be spent - generating income & relevant taxes

* Parents will be able to afford to continue with lessons that they so want to allow their children to attend.

* Children need this more than ever. Our youngest students are 'quitting' at a rate that I have never seen before. I am gravely concerned about the mental state of these children as an educator. For many years the mantra of the Education Department has been about mentoring resilience in children. We cannot teach resilience if the children are not turning up.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Kind regards,

Martin Davison

School Bands Australia