

Submission
No 12

INQUIRY INTO ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: NSW Department of Education

Date Received: 23 July 2024

Ms Julia Finn MP
Joint Select Committee on Arts & Music Education and Training in NSW
Parliament House
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Dear Ms Finn

I write in response to your email of 19 June 2024, to Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary, Department of Education, regarding the inquiry into arts and music education and training in New South Wales. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the quality and effectiveness of arts and creative industries education and the quality and effectiveness of music education and training. The NSW Department of Education delivers mandatory, elective and co-curricular arts education through school-based, local, regional and statewide programs and initiatives. These include:

- NESA board developed mandatory creative arts K-6, including dance, drama, music and visual arts content
- NESA board developed Stage 4 mandatory music and visual arts
- NESA board developed 7–10 elective dance, drama, music, photography and digital media, visual arts and visual design
- department approved elective courses in Stage 5 performing arts, digital and media studies
- NESA board developed courses in 11–12 dance, drama, music 1, music 2, music extension and visual arts
- Content Endorsed Courses (CEC) in 11–12 ceramics, visual design, and photography, video and digital imaging (PVDI)
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses in assistant dance teaching, music industry, entertainment industry, visual arts and contemporary craft, and screen and media
- statewide, regional and school-level co-curricular programs and opportunities in the creative arts.

Under [Our plan for NSW Public Education](#), we are committed to delivering outstanding leadership, teaching and learning through the provision of high-quality, evidence-based curriculum resources. The department has established curriculum support teams in creative arts K–6 and 7–12 to:

- support implementation of current syllabuses
- deliver comprehensive support packages for implementation of new syllabuses as they are published in the NSW curriculum reform

- engage with NESA, ACARA and other curriculum stakeholders to shape equitable evidence-based approaches to arts education, including coordinating consultation responses from the Department of Education
- publish support materials on the department's curriculum website, including subject-specific resources, online professional learning, and resources to support statewide school development days
- provide high level advice about arts education policy and practices
- administer online statewide staffrooms to deliver live and online professional learning at regional and statewide levels and respond to enquiries from teachers, school executive and department support workers.

The Arts Unit is a specialist directorate within the NSW Department of Education which promotes growth, connection and inclusion through the arts in a variety of settings, providing inspiring co-curricular arts opportunities for every student in NSW and reducing the impact of disadvantage and enriching school communities. The Arts Unit:

- delivers programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, spelling, literary arts, film and special events, supporting student engagement, wellbeing and development from Kindergarten to Year 12 in diverse school contexts across the state
- delivers targeted professional learning to support delivery of high-quality arts education, strengthening trust and respect for the teaching profession and school support staff
- administers the Regional Conservatorium Grants Program on behalf of the New South Wales government
- coordinates festivals and performances, ensembles, exhibitions, camps, workshops, competitions and challenges, digital resources and teacher professional learning
- delivers music and ensemble programs to support teachers and students in NSW public schools from K–12 with co-curricular opportunities.

The Department of Education engages with a range of arts organisations, conservatoriums, institutions and creative professionals to support the development of creative skills across the arts. These relationships have supported:

- development of bespoke online professional learning leveraging current trends in creative arts practice to inspire teachers that engage a range of industry professionals to link industry practice to curriculum. Across 3 series, addressing 7–12 drama, music and visual arts, over 1300 participants gained new ideas and strategies for classroom practice and appreciated practical knowledge, links and resources provided by the industry experts
- development of the [ACO Foundations program](#), an in-school program which uses music learning to improve the developmental and educational outcomes of children in low socio-economic status schools. ACO Foundations has been running as an expansive pilot program in St Marys North Public School in Western Sydney since 2018. Now in its sixth year, ACO Foundations sees over 160 students and their classroom teachers participate daily in the program, with life-changing impacts and demonstrates how music learning can be integrated into the core classroom curriculum for the benefit of all students.

The outcomes for students that completed the program were significant and can be found in the ACO Foundations 2018-2022 [evaluation report](#).

- the delivery of the [Music in Me Program](#) (MiM), which offers mentoring and professional learning in K – 6 classroom music education in collaboration with the [Australian Youth Orchestra](#). MiM creates opportunities for every student to access quality music education in the classroom, including in remote and regional areas, by pairing experienced K–6 music teachers with participating teachers (mentees) and mentoring them in person, online or through a hybrid model.
- increased engagement with industry professionals and teaching artists in dance, drama and visual arts to develop resources and support materials to support the implementation of the new syllabuses in Dance 7–10 (2023), Drama 7–10 (2023), Music 7–10 (2024) and Visual Arts 7–10 (due for publication in 2024). The department is developing models of creative practice through a range of projects, such as music compositions, choreographic processes, scripted works and demonstrations of material practice in visual arts. These resources are being developed to support teachers in NSW public schools to make connections between curriculum changes and industry practices.
- development of music programs, performances and events in collaboration with regional conservatoriums through partnerships with schools and the department's Arts Unit
- The Arts Unit's Home program, connecting professional Aboriginal artists, students and teachers with local Aboriginal community, regional galleries and the Art Gallery of NSW to explore cultural practice, language and artmaking.
- development of a series of filmed interviews with 5 Aboriginal creative artists exploring their application of cultural protocols to their arts practices, in partnership with the department's secondary creative arts curriculum team and the Aboriginal Education and Communities directorate. Delivery of this project and associated curriculum materials will support teachers to apply the 'Protocols for collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities and engaging with Cultural works' required by new creative arts syllabuses across 7–10, as published by NESA as part of the current curriculum reform in NSW.
- provision of arts learning opportunities on the department's online excursion platform, [DART Learning](#), through online events coordinated with organisations such as National Portrait Gallery, Sydney Opera House, Red Room Poetry, ACMI (formerly Australian Centre for the Moving Image), Sydney Jewish Museum and Kamay Botany Bay Environmental Education Centre.

The Department of Education supports students to learn entrepreneurial skills and gain industry experience in the arts and creative industries by:

- providing opportunities for students to learn about entrepreneurship, and to develop entrepreneurial skills, through subject-specific content in creative arts and technologies syllabuses that support skill development in ideation, development and presentation of works

- supporting students to engage in work experience and workplace learning opportunities in arts and creative industry settings in accordance with the [Work experience and workplace learning \(nsw.gov.au\) policy](https://www.nsw.gov.au/work-experience-and-workplace-learning).
- providing a range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses in Stage 6 with direct industry links including assistant dance teaching, music industry, entertainment industry, visual arts and contemporary craft, and screen and media
- delivering the [Talent Development Project \(TDP\)](#), a free program for students in Years 9–12 designed to nurture and expand the talents of young musicians, singers and songwriters within an artistic and professional environment. The TDP supports students to directly experience the music and entertainment industry through mentoring from arts industry professionals who provide guidance on creative industry career pathways.

The Department of Education supports opportunities for the celebration of both informal and formal measures of success in music and arts education. Informal measures include student participation in local, regional and statewide arts education events, initiatives and showcases, which supports community engagement and visibility. Formal measures include student completion and attainment in creative arts subjects in the Record of Student Achievement (RoSA) and HSC. Student works in creative arts are formally and visibly celebrated through annual showcase events and exhibitions such as Pulse Far West, State Dance Festival, Shining Stars, Starstruck, Southern Stars and Schools Spectacular. Department of Education students' achievements in the HSC are also showcased through events such as ARTEXPRESS (Visual Arts), CALLBACK (Dance), Encore (Music) and OnSTAGE (Drama).

Should you require any further information, you may wish to contact Jane McDavitt Creative Arts Coordinator, Curriculum Secondary Learners, Curriculum and Reform, by telephone on _____ or email at _____.

Yours sincerely

Dionissia Tsirigos
R/Director, Curriculum Secondary Learners
23 July 2024



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