

From: [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Music Education Parliamentary Enquiry.

The cost of music education is born heavily by parents. Parents currently pay for:

- Tuition fees (\$440 pa which is a rise of approximately 150% in the past 8 years from \$180 in 2005)
- Purchase (or hire) of instruments (which can run in to thousands of dollars for the purchase of a moderate quality single instrument)
- Fund raising for band equipment (such as music stands, drum kits etc)
- Cost of band trips etc (well in excess of a thousand dollars for interstate trips for example)

It is thus vital for many students and families that at the very least there is no reduction in the level of funding provided by Government as this would result in students dropping out of the music programme.

Often the most enjoyment children get from school is from extra-curricular such as music – there are always tears and emotion at the final end of year school concert, even from the tough boys! Anything that means that much to them is worth fighting to keep.

Music teachers are passionate and skilled musicians in their own right, and they instil that in their pupils. The State Government must not make things harder for these teachers, or take their focus away from teaching and into fundraising just to keep the programmes going. (Reduction in funding would almost certainly see the collapse of the music programme at some disadvantaged marginal schools.)

Given the positive impact music programmes have on interested students anything that reduces this impact (in the name of cost savings for example), would surely cause a negative macro-economic gain with the increase of dealing with more errant students (both whilst under, and after, schooling).

Music provides release for students who are not just “arts” inclined. My children are maths/science focused, yet are keen on their music and are taking it as their 6<sup>th</sup> VCE subject. One child has continued music with his school mates in the year since he did VCE – a great way of keeping in touch with friends but also a consistency in times of great change in his life. As a group they now have to manage and organise themselves, as well as learn to compromise and be disciplined enough to turn up to rehearsals every fortnight.

Music stimulates parts of the brain not usually associated with academic study and this assists in their learning of other subjects.

We have a lot to thank music for and I urge the Government to continue (and increase!) funding so as to allow others these opportunities for themselves and for the community (after all, great musicians are just as likely to come through the state school system as the private school system).

As a community we should allow all children opportunity, not just those whose parents can afford to pay for it

Regards  
Robert Scoberg