

Ms Christine Lee

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I have two daughters in secondary school (years 7 & 9). Just commenting on the state of music education in primary school, our girls attended different Primary Schools and we were puzzled by the contrasts in music education. It was sport, sport and more sport in one school...the other school was a little better, but only just. As a result we chose to have both girls tutored privately in music. They have studied both piano and violin.

Fortunately both girls are now at Canterbury Girls Secondary College (CGSC). My older daughter has been involved in House Chorals and various music groups since she joined CGSC and I feel this has been a great help to her, not only in her violin studies outside school, but in her overall academic results and self-discipline. I am really hoping that funding for all the music groups (Cantabile, Orchestra etc ) continues so my younger daughter who has just entered school can also benefit. Please, please continue to subsidise the teaching of instruments in schools as well. We haven't used this facility so far as the girls have been learning privately, but we may switch to learning violin in school (as opposed to just playing in a group) at some stage this year. Finding good violin teachers privately has been hard as neither my husband or I play, and we have been exposed to the arbitrariness of the open market in the past. I can enrol my children for violin lessons in school with confidence as the teachers have been chosen for their qualifications and ability to teach. However ideally, learning an instrument in school should not result in a child missing important classes that need to be made up later. This seems to be the case at present and I do not think it is best practice for the child.

The state funded education system should equip every child with the skills necessary to become decent citizens. Unfortunately the expense of learning an instrument privately - the cost of instruments, lessons and exams was close to \$4000 for us last year - and the fact that our current system places too much emphasis on sport and too little on art and music will only result in a lop-sided education for those who can't go private. Government subsidies are the only way to give all children a go.

I notice that you are also looking at what factors affect the quality of music education in Victorian schools. In deference to parents like us who make up the audience at Music Nights, we would be very grateful if you refused to fund the singing of any dirges. More Lady Ga Ga and less incantation - should benefit performers and audience alike!