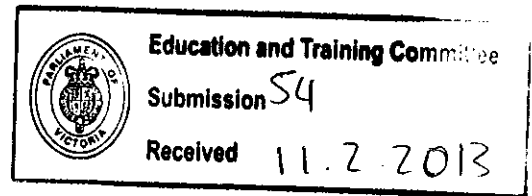


Mr D and Mrs N Harbourd
[REDACTED]



5 February 2013

Ms Kerryn Riseley
Executive Officer
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3002.

Dear Mr Chairperson,

As a Parent and a member of the Victorian community, I wish to express my desire for all children in public primary schools to receive:

- A meaningful and vibrant music classroom program, delivered by a qualified music specialists
- At least one session per week in music literacies
- The opportunity to engage in joyous singing, supported by a sequential curriculum
- An enriched and diverse curriculum allowing for the aural and notational, literacies to empower the children to make music and intelligently consume music into their adult life
- A meaningful assessment outcome, separate from all other subjects, providing credence to music as a language, an art form, and a cultural force.

FURTHER:

One of the key factors in deciding which local Government primary school to send our children to was whether or not they had a music program. Similarly, when applying for high schools a strong music program was essential. We are certain that music is the reason our youngest son was accepted into a high school held in high regard in the community which we were not zoned to. Both our children have benefited from primary school classroom music programs and they also participated in the instrumental music program at the school. To this day, they both still participate in music programs at government high schools. Our oldest boy who commenced music in 2005 has rejoined the music program in 2012 after 2 year break. Our youngest son who commenced in 2007 has participated continuously in government school music programs. In 2012 he participated in the Orchestra Victoria On The Move Education program. The 3 day intensive program was "the best thing ever". This opportunity would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of his instrumental music teacher. Our children have also been provided with numerous opportunities to play in concerts, ensembles and even local music festivals as a result of school music programs. Such performances have given them the confidence to perform in public; an essential skill to prepare them for life beyond school.

However, music has come at a cost and we have been in a position to be able to afford the tuition and purchase of instruments. For many families this is not an option and children miss out on such an enjoyable and enriching opportunity that our boys have been privileged to participate in. We strongly encourage the enquiry to recommend the implementation and expansion of school music programs denied to many students.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Nellie Harbourd

[REDACTED]

David Harbourd