

Ms Kerryn Riseley, Executive Officer  
Education and Training Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Dear Ms Riseley,

We thought it would be important for you to understand the position that instrumental teachers and their students have currently while you are putting together the legislation for the VICTORIAN MUSIC REVIEW.

CURRENT CLIMATE:

- Currently have students performing at an extremely high level of musicianship, yet we have gaps in resources resulting in unbalanced bands not allowing students to reach their full potential

- Lack of understanding amongst the staff about the educational values of the music program

- Lack of tertiary support. Ie. VCE Music is not valued as a high ranking subject score and thus many students choose other subjects to boost their scores. A leading educator at St Vincent's Hospital has suggested that music education should be more encouraged to allow students, in particular young doctors, to encourage more creative thinking. Bill Clinton (Former USA President) stated on the Elvis Costello Show that his music education during high school helped him make more rational decision when faced with dilemmas of running the world's most influential country.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM:

- Encourages students to be more creative thinkers

- Builds on students organisation and compartmentalising skills

- Advertises a healthy learning community in the public sphere

- Provides more holistic culture

- Stimulates greater neurological connectivity, crossing the paths between rational and emotional response

- Music encourages students to build relationships across age groups and explores student's different backgrounds.

CURRENT FUNDING AND ITS EFFECTS:

- Teachers are currently working in toilet blocks, shelter sheds, corridors, and small portable rooms without heating and cooling. This is not only unhealthy for the occupants, but certainly does not encourage students to want to continue in the future.

- Many of the facilities were designed for Music departments in the

70s/80s which had student sizes of 60 members. Now programs have students numbers ranging between 200-500 the rooms are exceeding capacity and frequently there are not enough rooms in general.

. A lot of funding from the past has been put to good use within the music programs in terms of equipment including music technology, instruments and amplification units to provider better performance opportunities for the students.

We hope this can contribute to your decision making. Please free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Matt Poynter (Instrumental teacher at Glen Waverley Secondary College/Viewbank College)

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Merran Wickham (Instrumental teacher at Glen Waverley Secondary College/Viewbank College)

Phil Binotto (Instrumental teacher at Glen Waverley Secondary College/Ringwood Secondary College/ St Helena Secondary College)

Steve Haggart (Instrumental teacher at Glen Waverley Secondary College/Bayswater Secondary College/Mooroolbark Secondary College)

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