

From: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern.

I would like to identify two outstanding areas of neglect in music education in Victoria. It has long been known by music educators the importance of compulsory singing throughout the primary school years. The development of the musical ear begins early in life and is the basis of all instrumental and vocal training. Instrumental music teachers have long been aware of the wasted opportunities in many primary schools for an early start to instrumental tuition. Violin and piano lessons ought to begin at around the age of five or six years whilst woodwind and brass lessons ideally would start in grade four or five. On reaching secondary school with this grounding in music from the most receptive age, those students wanting to specialize in an instrumental or academic study would be in an excellent position from which to achieve a high standard in VCE.

I urge the members of the committee of inquiry to consider the need to introduce these two changes, both compulsory singing and an early start to instrumental tuition in primary schools, as matters of the first importance in revising the music curriculum in Victorian schools.

Yours sincerely
Catherine Cabena

(piano and woodwind teacher for more than thirty years in both primary and secondary schools, public and private, currently at Williamstown High School, Braybrook College and Hoppers Crossing Secondary College.)