

Questions taken on notice and further information

Portfolio:	Creative Industries
Witness:	Minister for Creative Industries
Committee Member:	Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Can you tell me which orchestras the department does fund?

Colin BROOKS: This is the part where I was supposed to be looking at my notes, Mr McGowan. I have found them now. You prompted me to look. Some of the programs that are supported by Creative Industries, this department, are the songwriting in schools program for high school students across Victoria to learn songwriting in schools, a great program; the Melbourne Recital Centre's Making Waves student composer program; Musica Viva, Australia's national classical music competition for students; Arts Centre Melbourne, which was the one I was referring to before; a variety of music programs at The Channel, which is aimed at young people aged 15 to 25; The Push – Youth Music Organisation, aimed at supporting young people to forge a career in the music industry; and the Short Black Opera for Kids at the Geelong Arts Centre, a free program for First People students to learn culture, music and storytelling. There are a range of other organisations which run programs which are partly music and partly performance. I will not go through a long list of those, and I am sure that when the Minister for Education is here, he could run through the list of programs that are based on music that are now funded through the grant program that was mentioned before.

Nick McGOWAN: I understand it is a long list. Do you mind providing the long list to us later on?

Colin BROOKS: Yes.

Nick McGOWAN: In terms of the total funding envelope for orchestras and associated things, what are we looking at in your department?

Claire FEBEY: I would have to take on notice, and we could talk to, programs that we provide to support education around arts broadly in schools and then programs that we support that relate to music and children and young people.

Nick McGOWAN: Sure. If you could please do that, and particularly with the schools as well.

Answer:

Orchestras play a prominent role in Victoria's creative landscape. Principal among them are the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and Orchestra Victoria. The Victorian Government invests in these two orchestras under the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework, an agreement between the Commonwealth and states regarding co-investment in national major performing arts companies. The Victorian Government also assists these companies in other ways, for example, through regional and international touring support for the MSO and capital work for the relocation of Orchestra Victoria to the Meat Market in North Melbourne.

The Victorian Government also provides multi-year support for smaller orchestras, such as the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and the Australian Art Orchestra.

Total current funding for orchestral music activity – excluding capital expenditure – is estimated at around \$4.25 million per annum.

Several organisations undertake direct outreach to schools with additional support from the Department of Education (DE). Currently, five orchestral or classical music organisations are co-funded through DE’s Strategic Partnerships Program for dedicated schools’ music programs, including Victorian Opera’s interactive workshops on creating and staging opera and Melbourne Recital Centre mentoring for selected VCE students studying Music Composition.

Other music programs in schools supported by the Victorian Government include the Songwriting in Schools program delivered by APRA AMCOS, for Victorian high school students to learn songwriting in the classroom and connect with the music industry, and the Creative Learning Partnerships program which supports music organisations and/or practitioners in residence at primary and secondary schools across the state.