



Making sure school music education rocks

12 November 2013

School music education in Victoria is not striking a strong enough chord, a report by the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee has found.

The Committee's Chair, Mrs Jan Kronberg MLC, said the report, *Inquiry into the extent, benefits and potential of music education in Victorian schools*, makes a powerful case for ensuring that music education plays a more central role in Victorian schools.

"Music education should be an essential part of every young person's education," said Mrs Kronberg. "Not only do they gain enjoyment and reward from making and listening to music, but research also shows that learning music can lead to improved student engagement at school and enhanced social wellbeing."

"While the Committee found that some Victorian schools provide exceptional musical experiences, not all schools are operating at this level. Unfortunately, many Victorian students in the public education system appear to be missing out on a sequential and in-depth music education, particularly during the primary school years."

The Committee's report provides a framework for ensuring that all Victorian students have the opportunity to experience a meaningful music education at school. Key recommendations include:

- a state-wide strategy to guide the future delivery of school music education in Victoria
- a promotion plan to ensure that school leaders and teachers understand the importance and benefits of a quality music education
- a music education guide to support schools to deliver a quality music education
- increased education, training and support for teachers, particularly at the primary school level
- support for secondary schools without an instrumental music program to start a program.

There was a high level of community interest in the Inquiry. The Committee received 244 submissions, conducted nine public hearings and visited several schools as part of the Inquiry.

"A quality music education at school helps lays the foundation for a life-long love of music," said Mrs Kronberg. "We owe it to all young people to ensure that they can fully experience the joy and value of learning music."

The report is available on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: Committee Chair, Mrs Jan Kronberg MLC (03) 9870 8284/0417 344 481

Background: Committee Executive Officer, Mr Michael Baker (03) 8682 2821