

From: [REDACTED]

To Mr David Southwick MP,

My name is Nicole Harris. I am writing this letter to ask you to please keep the current funding model in regards to music education at Blackburn High school. My children, and in fact our whole family, has benefited immensely from the music program offered by Blackburn high school. Blackburn High school has inspired in my children a love for music which otherwise would not have been possible. So you may say, well " I love music too". But it is far more than this. My children have learnt to read the language of music, and this has taken a great deal of persistence and discipline. They have developed an enquiring mind, and want to learn about the genres and patterns of music. My children have grown their aural skills and are listening more intently to what goes on around them in their daily lives. Amazingly, I have noticed an improvement in my childrens memory, which I'm sure has something to do with the way my children are getting better at remembering tunes. It is no surprise that this excellent music education has also improved my childrens academic studies. My children have been learning music for the past 5 years, and it seems that every year I am noticing something which I can attribute to the excellent music education offered at Blackburn high school.

The dedicated music staff at Blackburn high go far beyond their job description to ensure that every child at the school has an opportunity to learn music. Families such as ours, travel great distances to access this wonderful program. The schools orchestras and ensemble have shown themselves to be an outstanding success, with a string of competition wins every year. My children and family have made many friends and have a greater sense of belonging in the musical community. The school has connected my children to other musical events outside the school setting. These opportunities would not be available to my children, if it wasn't for Blackburn high school. I plead with you, to please do what you can to keep music education my children at Blackburn High school. I'm not sure how I will tell them they will not be going to attend symphony orchestra, senior string orchestra or symphony orchestra, which I know my boys love. Most importantly, consider my childrens education and future.

Nicole Harris