

Ms Kerryn Risely, Executive Office
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002

14th February 2013
Suzi Reid



To whom it may concern:

The funding of Music Education in both primary and secondary schools is fundamental to the well-being and educational growth of students.

I have over 25 years of experience teaching Instrumental and Classroom Music to primary and secondary aged students. I have also had the opportunity to teach adult students. Listed below are some observations.

Music has proven to have significant benefits to students. Some of these benefits include:

- Improved spatial reasoning
- Building of synapsis in the brain improving neural pathways
- Improved reading and verbal skills
- Improved concentration and memory
- Avenue for self-expression
- Improved fine motor skills
- Improved cognitive skills
- Emotional intelligence
- Aural discrimination
- Good for the soul
- Opportunity to perform in music ensembles
- Sense of belonging to ensembles, particularly important in the teenage years
- Commitment to self and to performance groups
- Encouraging reliability and consistency
- And it is FUN!

A few examples of how music has played an important component in the lives of some of my students.

A teenage girl who is intent on becoming a conductor. She practises her instrument daily, and says 'She cannot live without music'.

Another teenage girl that comes for extra lessons during lunchtimes and any other times because she loves learning and music is the path that she wants to follow.

A young girl with Down Syndrome who loves coming to weekly lessons and enjoys practising at home. She looks forward to concerts where she can 'show off her skills'.

Being invited to see the band of a former student that I taught over a decade ago. Music is still intrinsic to his life.

So strong is the belief that Music is vital to education, that both of my own children play two instruments!

Funding is already tight, with old instruments being rehashed, the same sheet music used year in year out, teaching in non sound-proofed rooms and inadequate storage for instruments. The funding for much of what we use is contributed through student fees and fundraising, rather than government contributions.

A cut in funding to this vital area of education would see a decline in the physical, emotional and mental well-being of students across Victoria.

Yours sincerely,

Suzi Reid
Instrumental Music teacher
Highvale Secondary College