

Ms Kerry Riseley, Executive Officer
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002



RE: Request and reasons to maintain (funding for) Music Programs at public schools (in particular, Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)

Dear Ms Riseley,

In the form of feedback to the Parliamentary Inquiry I am writing to strongly support the view that funding for Music Programs at public schools be continued. In particular, I support the continuation of the program at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College. Reasons to continue this program follow below:

1. My daughter enrolled as a beginner flute player/learner at Canterbury Girls' SC last year, in 2012, and enjoyed and learnt immensely from the program and intends to continue participating.
2. She would be deeply disappointed, along with her fellow-students and teachers, if the program was forced to cease due to a new policy/decision, eg. lack or reduced funding.
3. For financial and logistical reasons we would be unable to provide our daughter with alternative/other musical tuition with specialist teachers outside the school.
4. Apart from the music education she receives, the Music Program provides her with valuable independence, self-esteem, as well as social skills and contacts.
5. All students engage in Music Education through the curriculum at years 7 and 8 at Canterbury Girls' SC.
6. Music is an academic subject.
7. Music is equal to all other academic disciplines taught at school.
8. Music is also an art, and, as such, it characterises civilised societies. We live in a civilised society and should hence support Music being taught at schools.
9. Music 'opens one's mind' in a similar way that mathematics or foreign languages do; it makes students/people see the world from a different perspective.
10. Music can lead to specific and specialised career choices, which can be pursued through public school Music Programs.

11. Music education is strongly connected with success in broader education, as also shown by numerous academic research. Such an example appears in the internationally prestigious Journal of Neuroscience (USA) - <http://www.jneurosci.org/content/32/34/11507>
Also <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/science-sushi/2012/08/21/even-a-few-years-of-music-training-benefits-the-brain/>
12. Music stimulates the mind and provides mind-body harmony and rhythm/movement; the ancient Spartans were aware of this and thus considered and incorporated Music Education as an integral and compulsory component of their physical training.
13. Canterbury Girls' SC has a long tradition and high quality of Music Education; it should be maintained for the benefit of the whole school community.
14. The House Chorals Festival, the Music Camp, the variety of Musical Ensembles are some of the musical activities organised by the school; they are profoundly beneficial to the whole school community.
15. If funding is an issue that could cease the Music Program, then the governing bodies need to consider that Canterbury Girls' SC is a public school, and as such MORE funding is required rather than LESS; this should apply to ALL disciplines of study, including MUSIC.
16. If the government finds insufficient funding to support music programs at public schools, then the government should consider reducing, if not ceasing, funding of private schools to make up for the shortage. PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE A CHOICE; PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE NOT.
17. Music is an important part of education, and as such should also be a priority of funding.
18. One less (Music) program at the school would make the school poorer by that one program.
19. Finally, it would be UNFAIR and COUNTER-EDUCATIONAL to withdraw a Music Program for any reason, especially a program that has been working successfully for a long period of time at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College.

For the reasons illustrated above, my daughter, my family and I vehemently support the running and continuation of the Music Program at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College.

I am very willing to further elaborate and discuss should you wish to contact me.

Your sincerely,

Tina Isaakidis