

Dear Sir/s,

I am writing to you as a concerned teacher and committed music instructor.

The trend in educational direction at the moment seems to be away from subjects that support social fabric and develop in students a social conscience, and toward academia for academia's sake.

Students who are active in instrumental music demonstrate academic improvement.

Your committee holds the power at the moment at just such a watershed decision.

I would like to persuade you to consider not only confirming the outstanding job that instrumental music is doing for future generations of Australians, but to extend the funding for this programme.

I could mention the proven research that links Instrumental music to extended brain function and stimulation. In this present age where information is freely available on the net, you would know all this and have considered its importance.

I could mention that learning an instrument is a skill that out lasts the educational journey - building empathy and social skills in its participants. Isn't this the ultimate goal of education - to produce young people who are enthusiastic about their society, employment, life.

I could mention that instrumental music fosters teamwork, collaborative learning and listening skills.

It bolsters self esteem and pride.

Many of our local community events benefit (such as -shows, Anzac Day, Australia Day, Farmers Market, grandparent's day)

There are also educational events benefit to other students(performances at assemblies, preschools, nursing homes, community presentation evenings).

It assists students to develop their life long attitude that school life and sense of educational journey has value, link and purpose.

I could mention all of this, but you already know it.

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What I'd like to mention is the effect that instrumental music is having on my town and region of Victoria. Corryong is an isolated community. Our band performance give the students a sense of purpose and commitment to their community. Our band performances give the community a sense of cohesion and pride. To remove it would remove from the community and school another thread in the fabric of community.

Last year our instrumental students performed at:- Man from Snowy River Festival, Grandparents Day, Assemblies, Presentation Evening, Corryong Kindergarten, Corryong Nursing Home (x3), Corryong Carols, Baptist Church, Khancoban park, Khancoban Public School, Walwa Primary School, Henty Bed and Breakfast, Henty Public School, Teddy Bear's Picnic.

Not all these activities are within school learning time. Students are delighted to give up their own time because they see that they are contributing to the enjoyment of others and the development of a social fabric. Without the instrumental music programme all this would simply cease.

I ask the committee, "Is this what you want for our Australian community?"

Ray Knight

(Instrumental Music Teacher - Corryong College)