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Ms Sarah Jane Chapman

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I believe that Music Education for all children is one of several fundamental building blocks for supporting our next generations to be creative, multi-dimensional human beings and workers. It is not only Music Education as a stand-alone topic, but also the use of music incorporated as one of multiple modes of teaching other topics. Leading educational experts such as Sir Ken Robinson have made the aforementioned points far more eloquently and rigorously than I have expressed above, and with research to back up their case. I'll add another point, which is that participating in group musical experiences, such as bands, orchestras and choirs, give children the opportunity to develop not only their musical skills but to be part of a team, and learn teamwork at many levels as well as the responsibilities of being part of a small community. This can also be achieved through team sports, but not all children have the interest and aptitude for sports - therefore group musical experiences allow for another avenue to learn these skills. Far beyond the narrow benefits of providing some future career musicians, Music Education can enhance musical appreciation, enhance wider learning, boost creativity and innovative problem solving, and potentially boost teamwork and community. It ought to be core to the experience of all Victorian school students.