

Dear Sir/ Madame,

I am writing in response to information I received about the possibility of loss of funding to school music programs. Our School is a small, remote area school that relies on this funding to keep our school music program and band functioning.

From a school of 200 students we have a band of around 30 students. These students have group music lessons for their individual instruments once a week and play with the school band during 1 lunch time a week.

Our school is in a community that has been dominated by a football/ netball culture for generations. PE and sport seems to be readily offered but the arts programs have to be fought for. The children of our band are not the footy kids. The music program allows these children to be part of a team; The

Band from Snowy River. This improves the Band members connectivity with other

students and with School. The children in the Band perform regularly at both

school and community events; the opportunity to work in the team and to perform

personally is amazing for these children. It builds confidence, social skills,

persistence, perseverance and a life- long love of music and learning.

Our band is also supported by our community and we have adult mentors from the community volunteering their time to play along side the different musical

sections. This is brilliant for skill development and enjoyment.

Without the funding for this program, we are concerned that the music program

will suffer and football will take over once again. Where will this leave the 30+ students of the Band? The volunteers would still come and assist but, with out the funding, the group lessons would not be possible. The students

would not be able to progress with just one lunchtime whole band session. School connectivity has a huge influence on a child's overall education experience

and the outcomes of that educational experience. Please remember this as you consider whether funding for this program and other such programs are necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kimb Heycox

A concerned parent of a Band student

Heycox Family

