

Education and Training Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Re: Inquiry into the extent, benefits & potential of music education in Victorian schools

Dear Committee members,

Our family lives in Balwyn.

In the close vicinity there are multiple excellent academic schools such as Balwyn High, Camberwell High, Koonung Secondary college etc.

All of these fine schools offer music education but the strategy appears in participation rather than a focus area.

Five years ago, our then year 6 son (at Mont Albert Primary School) had the opportunity to experience the music offerings and culture at Blackburn High School.

For him, Blackburn High School was the only choice for his secondary education despite the 40 minute commute each way and the closer reputable schools in our immediate area.

He is now in year 11 at Blackburn High School and thoroughly enjoyed the school and musical journey.

Blackburn High School appears to be the only state school in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne which really promotes music to the extent that it has a full time school Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Bands and Stage (Jazz) Bands. The students not only receive excellent solo music tuition but also a full ensemble experience.

The music culture at Blackburn High School with an extraordinary student percentage participation in music education also in turn reflects in the strong school pride evident to parents.

I also understand that school intake numbers are growing.

Blackburn High School has built a music education reputation known throughout in Australia and has produced many professional musicians.

My view is that the music education program at Blackburn High School should not only be protected but further strengthened as a catchment in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for interested students with a music focus.

Regards

Angelo Iacono

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[Redacted contact information]