

From: Bobbie King
To: [Committee, Communications \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Music Industry Inquiry - Opinion
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Hello

You may or may not have heard of me. I am Bobbie King. Around 2008, I petitioned the WA Minister of Education, then Lilian Ravlich, for a music business course for Perth TAFE. I had been a student of the music industry skills course in Newcastle before having to move home to Perth fleeing domestic violence. I couldn't continue with those studies because there was no such thing in Perth, except for music performance and technical production. So I took matters into my own hands and kicked up a fuss. While that was getting sorted out, they put me into the music performance course, probably to keep me occupied because I wouldn't shut up. Apparently the Minister came down and had a big meeting, and by around 2010 the course was up and running as a Diploma course at Leederville TAFE. They got some nice extra funding and built a new wing for it. Unfortunately I didn't have the means to take it up by that time, my daughter had become a teenager .. say no more.

I found that with the studies I HAD done, subjects I passed, academic transcripts (very long), references etc, the Job Seeker Providers that I was sent to by Centrelink, did not recognise any of it, and instead kept suggesting that I take up bar work, another suggested I work in a sex shop. Whichever Job Seeker Provider, that I had to go to by order of Centrelink in order to receive my assistance payments, had no idea how to handle my case or what I was good for. Nowadays I'm studying plain ole business and logistics. The industry has pretty much lost me through disillusionment. I hardly even go out to see live music anymore. Lately I've been going to one gig a year for two years: The Screaming Jets, who started it all for me and are friends of mine, otherwise I only go to the APRA Christmas party, because of the songwriting I picked up during the music performance course I was shuffled into during the petition.

I propose, that now that there are quite a few TAFE courses for music industry skills and music business, that there now be specialised music/arts industries Job Seeker Providers linked to Centrelink.

The regular one's do not have the contacts or know how to deal with job seekers who have music/arts industries qualifications/experience, and then after "get a real job" being told to them again and again, you lose them. Not only do you need those job seeker providers, but you also need for the officers in the other job seeker providers to know to refer music/arts people to the specialist.

The industry wins because then they get people with industry knowledge etc, and those people don't go to waste being forced by financial necessity/Centrelink obligations into other jobs. Those jobs are not just rock star, or manager of a rock star. In a movie the end credits roll and there are a plethora of roles other than actor that make that movie. It is the same with the music industry, as well as the other arts. Music industry related companies need office staff just as much as insurance, mining and other companies do. With globalisation, logistics and supply chain is becoming important, and supply chain includes the music industry and it's related goings-ons.

That's my piece.

Rock on

Roberta S. King (Bobbie)
The One and Only
Extraordinaire