

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
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Dear Committee,

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAIR PAY FOR RADIO PLAY) BILL

My name is Scott Hudson, and I am writing to you as an Artist in the Australian music industry, to seek support for the Fair Pay For Radio Play Bill.

I am an independent artist and entertainment journalist that has watched the music scene depreciate over the past decade, and most rapidly in the years during and following the Covid lockdowns. Drawing from Triple J Unearthed's most recent [survey](#), 48 per cent of Australian artists have considered leaving the music industry in the last 12 months—me included. 83 per cent require a second job to sustain themselves. This is in a climate where cost of living is at its highest and people across all industries are struggling. If we want to see the survival of what was once a thriving sector of the Australian economy was once, we need to see more support for the workers that compose it.

The COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAIR PAY FOR RADIO PLAY) BILL 2023 is one step towards creating a sustainable environment for artists. The Bill removes the cap that limits what commercial radio pays for the use of sound recordings to just 1% of their gross revenue. It also removes the cap of half a cent per head of population paid by ABC Radio since 1968. ABC paid only \$130,000 for the use of all sound recordings across all radio stations in 2023. According to the ABC's own [data](#), 3.6 million Australians aged 16 and older listened to the Hottest 100 live in 2022, and the event reached an audience of 9.6 million, half the Australian population of 16 years and over. That is a clear indication of Australian's interest in music which should reflect the earning of artists. Removing the cap on payment will allow PPCA to negotiate a fair market rate for the use of sound recordings, as we see with commercial TV and other music users.

All industries have taken a blow in the years following the pandemic, but few industries are structured around of what amounts to unregulated freelance/contractor work. Artists are workers, they put their time into skill development and training, they produce a product just like every other industry. They should reap the benefits for that work. But the cost of ignoring this issue is much larger. The industry **will** shrink if we don't see more support. Artists from minority groups and low socio-economic backgrounds will struggle enter the industry, let alone form careers. While this Bill will not solve this problem in entirety, to quote Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly: from little things, big things grow.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hudson.