

**From:** Ben Panucci  
**To:** [Committee, Communications \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** music industry submission - australia  
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To whom it may concern,

I've been living and working as a full time professional musician for the last 11 years. I live in Sydney. In that time I've toured nationally (including many rural stops) more times that I can remember, internationally, have been the artistic director of an arts organisation receiving funding from state and federal government, a band leader, songwriter, producer and session musician.

One of the biggest problems I see facing the future of Australian music is the lack of funding to smaller arts organisations, venues and musicians/bands. In Sydney in particular there is a real lack of small sized venues (50 - 300 capacity) - venues of this size give platform to local musicians to perform, network, build a fan base and hopefully become a valuable Australian export. As most venue owners see more value in poker machines (which if fair enough, they literally take people's cash from their hands) - government needs to step in to provide financial based initiatives and incentives to venues that are willing to give live music a go over gambling, which as I'm sure you are aware is a huge problem in NSW in particular.

More grants need to be given to bands who wish to start touring. Experience touring is essential in building your career. It would be great to see some smaller arts organisations form to facilitate this.

Many many more things to be said but I'm out of time. In general I think if the government and the people can shift to see the value in art (harder than ever now as streaming services etc allow us to have it for free) then hopefully people will decide to invest in it. Invest both with \$\$ and also with time, patience and vision. From little things big things grow!

Thanks for your time,  
Ben