

INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Information and Cultural Exchange

Date received: 28 February 2018

To the Members Committee No. 6 - Planning and Environment,

I work for Information and Cultural Exchange, a community arts organisation that has been working with Western Sydney communities, artists and creative producers since 1984. More specifically I produce 'All Girl Electronic', a program at I.C.E. that is committed to providing access, training and mentorship in electronic music production for Western Sydney female, non-binary and trans youth.

All Girl Electronic was developed as an answer to calls to address gender inequality in the Australian music industry. This issue can be seen in a range of guises from the lack of representation of female/trans/non-binary people on music festival line ups and radio to the shocking misogyny recently uncovered in the ABC Signal report "Tracks and Snatch: How sexist is the dance music scene?".

Based in Western Sydney our programs, including 'All Girl Electronic', attract participants from a range of cultural backgrounds. Another concern voiced from these participants is the lack of diversity reflected in the music industry.

A commitment from the NSW State Government to support increased gender equality in the music industry through investment in programs and events that prioritise the representation of female/non-binary/trans artists and artists from diverse cultural backgrounds would help to set a positive, forward thinking standard and help build a music industry which is truly representative of the State of NSW.

Kind regards

Julia Mendel