

**Submission
No 432**

INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Phil Rehmer
Date Received: 28 September 2018

Dear Music Inquiry Committee,

I'd like to add my thoughts to what has happened to and what is happening with live music within NSW. These thoughts are based on my own observations and life experiences.

The story begins; One upon a time in the 1980's friends, family and strangers could meet at the local pub most nights of the week to have a meal, a drink and experience live music. There was always a feeling of community. People were happy socialising together, there were familiar faces even if you didn't know each other personally we'd acknowledge each other with a friendly smile. It was good for one's spirit, good for one's health. Only live music brings the atmosphere of one, of togetherness.

At some point Pokies took over band areas. Revenue for the state government and the pub owner may have increased but in my opinion to the detriment of our community, our togetherness, our wellbeing. Live music practically disappeared. When I go to a pub now and walk past "The Pokie" room/ area, all I see are sad and depressed faces. How this can possibly be good for the health of our society and community I don't know.

It seems that revenue has taken over from community. It appears that government laws/ regulations, be they state or local have made it near impossible for publicans, cafes, small venues and the like, who want to support live music to actually have live music. There seems little or zero consistency in how laws and regulations are administered in the state of NSW.

I believe we need laws across NSW that properly and consistently regulate and 'support' live music and which stop individuals' opinions or bias to block what the majority of our community enjoys, live music!

Please look at the wonderful work that the Live Music Office does to support live music in NSW, live and local festivals as an example. I believe they understand live music and the benefits it delivers to the community better than anyone. In my opinion they also understand the issues with regulations surrounding live music better than anyone. Please listen to the Live Music Office and what they say and in turn please support the great work that they carry out.

Live Music brings with it a happy and healthy community.

Kind regards,

Phil Rehmer