

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468020

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a musician, in original 'dive bar' level, grassroots bands. No bright lights or big stages, just hard work and grit. Know what else there is none of? Money. Venues are shutting for their reasons and gigs are not being attended by the public, for their own reasons.

As someone who also books gigs, some night I have up to \$400 to split between 3-4 bands and pay myself to run the show. That is sometimes 5 units into \$400. The math doesn't add up.

Bless the government, they see the 'top end' of this pyramid, ie, bigger venues, cover and tribute bands, those who can write for grants, but not every musician a) writes for grants and b) is virtually EVER successful in the grant process, even after soliciting professional grant writers.

It is super newsworthy to point out that \,we help all levels\, when clearly, those at the bottom of the pile get ZERO help from any form of Government. Federal, State or Local.

Did AC/DC come from anywhere but the suburbs? The Angels? No! These INTERNATIONAL bands played the hard road gigs with little more than a wing and a prayer, and as of right now, Australia is losing it's heritage and a full generational clutch of great bands.

My suggestion? That the money ACTUALLY gets to this level, not through venues or grant processes, but actually to the musicians, bookers and crews who do this as a labour of love, because they certainly CANNOT do this as a job.

The 'COVID Years' showed me personally that Government is only interested in top line newsworthy aid, not for the salt of the industry. I sincerely hope the same path is not trodden, in that the money was distributed POORLY at best and in many instances, to the wrong hands.

Culturally speaking, does the Australian Music Industry care about its rich Rock n Roll heritage? Or are all those who came before us forgotten to the annals of time?

We should be wary, though ASHAMED of what happened to the likes of Stevie Wright and the litany of other artists who forged the Australian Music identity, only to be cast to the pile of nothing-ness until passing. Disgraceful. Heed the lessons of the past so we do not repeat them.

In conclusion, WHERE your support ends up will define the next generation of architects of the Australian Music Industry, for musicians will forever dream and I do hope their dreams can materialise.