

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470352

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I will be brief. Other contemporary music sector submissions will be detailed with qualitative and quantitative data, insights and recommendations to support their existence and ongoing support - but the economic facts, as revealed in the 2026 Baseline Report, launched by Music Australia on 20 May 2026 tell the REAL story.

The size of the economic pie has INCREASED, yet artists % and real income derived from the pie has DECREASED. Artist managers continue to provide an average of 30 hours free labour a week - labour that enables the pie to grow. This is fundamentally not fair to artists and their managers.

It seems counter intuitive for the Australian Government to have policies for financial investment into the music industry without addressing this, now proven, structural flaw.

Another fact revealed that overall the live performance pie is growing for ticketing companies and international promoters of stadium tours - not the local venues, promoters and creative communities.

I would recommend that renewed policy focus of the Office for the Arts and Music Australia be to urgently invest at the site of most impact and correct the structural injustice.

Money for artists and managers, cash in their hand to do their jobs - write, perform, record and release music and the strategic and administrative labour required to grow the pie for everyone else in the ecosystem.

Consider basic income support for professional artists and managers. Secure their futures and economic pressure will be alleviated from the backs of those whose work and art builds wealth for the system and organisations that benefit.