

From: Fahy, James
Sent: Thursday, 13 May 2010 12:58 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Re: Inquiry into Live Community Events

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my pleasure at the choice of title of this inquiry - live community events. I feel that this is the crux of this issue - we are asking what kind of community we wish to shape. I will keep this brief, as I am sure that you are receiving a great deal of submissions!

The live music and entertainment scene in Canberra has completely changed my life and the lives of my loved ones. I came to Canberra 5 years ago awash with reports of a dry, dull and uninteresting city. I will now proudly stand up for Canberra in the face of these allegations - I now call this city home, and my bond has been forged entirely by the magic of the live music and interactive, creative entertainment of Canberra. Inner city locations are essential for aspiring musicians, fans and reporters, lighting and sound engineers, promoters, critics, writers, poets, comedians, acrobats, and the rest of the astonishing array of talent this city has to offer in the creative arts. Thin on the ground they may be, but venues such as Toast (RiP), Transit, the Phoenix, the Gypsy Bar (RiP), and Hippo, not to mention the public spaces of Glebe Park, the Foreshore, and the Entertainment Centre (just look at Woodford!) are the nodes of potential and excellence that are needed to take advantage of our local talent, and the talent imported by an interest in this scene, and by our centres of learning - CiT, ANU, and UC.

I urge you to respect the need for hubs of the creative arts, and real venues to put these talents to the test, when you process the Review later this year. A community centre in a suburban area will not provide the exposure and experience needed for artists to mature; honest, powerful venues are what is needed, and we already have the individuals - all the arts needs need is the continued support of our government!

Yours most sincerely,

James Fahy
Musician and Proud Canberran