



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the cessation of the Music
for Colleges course

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT
AND YOUTH AFFAIRS INQUIRY
INTO CESSATION OF THE
MUSIC FOR COLLEGES COURSE

ACT GOVERNMENT
SUBMISSION

May 2019

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INTRODUCTION

The ACT Government recognises that arts and culture are an integral part of the lives of individuals as well as the whole social and economic fabric of Canberra. The arts help to define our community's identity and give expression to community values. Furthermore, the ACT Government recognises that the arts play a major role in the development of young people's understanding about cultures, beliefs and practices; creativity; critical thinking; aesthetic knowledge; and communication skills.

To support young people in their appreciation of the arts, all ACT public schools deliver quality arts education programs to engage, inspire and enrich student's learning. All ACT schools K-10 deliver the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, which includes music.

H Courses

To support older ACT students who excel, the ACT Government has worked with universities to provide additional options for extension opportunities. The ACT Government currently provides funding under a Deed of Grant with the Education Directorate to support a series of extension subjects through 'H Course' offerings at the ANU. These offerings are selected by the ANU and includes sciences, engineering, mathematics, Asian languages and historically Music.

'H Course' classification is given to a year 11 and 12 course which is designed and accredited (in this case by the ANU) and where successful completion of the course will be recognised towards an undergraduate degree with the university. Successful completion of H Courses, via the ANU Extension Program, provides students with early entry offers to ANU as well as credits towards both Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) and a Bachelor degree in the related discipline.

The ACT Government (Education) provides funding of \$120,000 per annum to the ANU to deliver H Courses. The ANU has the ability to attract funding under the Commonwealth Grants Scheme for some offerings (Sciences, engineering, maths, and Asian Languages). The ACT Government has no visibility of the funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and the ANU; ultimately, under the current deed, it is for ANU to decide on what subjects it will offer under the H Course program.

Traditionally the H Course for music has seen approximately 60 students per year (about 30 Year 11 and 30 Year 12 students). Of these, ANU reports that about 6-9 students go onto studying music at the ANU either as Degree in Music, or double Degree, or Degree in another discipline with a major in music.

artsACT Community Outreach Program

The ACT Government has a strong commitment to the arts sector and in providing music development activities for the Canberra community. This strong commitment is reflected in the significant current funding of over \$510,000 per year provided to the ANU for a Community Outreach Program that engages with the broader Canberra community.

The new Community Outreach Program has been developed and designed to increase participation in the arts, promote collaboration between organisations, artists and the community and establish relationships and/or programs which contribute to long term arts engagement outcomes. The aim is to engage sectors of the community that otherwise may experience barriers or disadvantage that inhibit their participation in the arts.

Funding to the School of Music pre-dates self-government and has evolved significantly over this time from core funding, to programs that achieve arts development outcomes for the Canberra community. The 2010 to 2013 Community Outreach Program had a range of programs focused on music development for Canberra students and teachers, and included Music in Primary Schools, Music After School, Music in Secondary Schools, and Music in Colleges. The 2014 to 2016 Community Outreach Program commenced a change of focus and language and included Music Engagement, Music Development and Music for Colleges. The 2017 Community Outreach Program provided transition funding only for these programs to 31 December 2017, in readiness for the new Outreach Program to commence from 1 January 2018.

The 2018 Community Outreach Program was developed through renewing the music and visual arts programs. The new music programs better align with the ACT Arts Policy and the Social Inclusion in the Arts Plan and comply with arts funding guidelines. This required a program shift away from programs focussed on direct support for students in the school environment. This decision was made to clearly differentiate the role of government arts funding from the education of school students. As far as the ACT Government is aware, this is consistent with other state/national arts agencies. These changes have resulted in a range of new activities which have better reach into the wider community, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women and people experiencing disadvantage.

The new music programs in the 2018 Deed of Grant with the ANU include:

- Girls Rock (for young girls to learn rock music at \$83,782) (2018 only)
- Girls Jazz (for women and girls to learn jazz at \$84,265)
- Community School of Rock (for any member of the community to develop their playing skills at \$82,927)
- My Song (mentorship program with Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth at \$50,830)
- Developing Musicians (non-auditioned program Year 7 to Year 12 students for music tuition and ensemble performances at \$209,444)

To carefully manage the transition away from the previous music programs, the ACT Government commenced discussions with the ANU on the new Community Outreach Program in December 2016. The decision to transition the Music for Colleges away from government arts funding by the end of 2019 was announced in February 2018.

It is important to note that the historic funding for the Music for Colleges program for music development and community access (through artsACT) was distinct from the funding for the totality of H Courses (through the Education Directorate) for programs in a range of subjects focused on individual student extension. Separate funding agreements and governance arrangements were in place with the ANU.

ACT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Demonstrated long term benefits and outcomes of the H Course for Music (as distinct from the music for colleges program)

In terms of benefit to the community the ensemble component of the program contributed to the overall vibrancy of the broader Territory's music sector in the long term by nurturing small groups that may continue to pursue musical activities beyond the scope of the program, including through public performances.

From a student perspective, the program provides a small number of talented students access to higher level tuition and access to the tertiary sector and potential early entry. It is understood that about 6-9 students in the H Course enrolled in the music degree course at the ANU each year to further their studies in music.

Anecdotally, teachers in the College system have provided feedback that Music H Course students often developed into a leadership role when they came back to the regular school-based music classes – be it repertoire, technique or standard required – they were able to share their knowledge and experience with classmates and enrich school-based ensembles. This is a similar experience in other H Course offerings, where students demonstrate leadership capability with their peers.

CASE STUDY – From a teacher in an ACT public college:

In their position as a music educator in the classroom they found the H Course music students to be highly motivated. The course gave them high level music theory tuition and private instrumental lessons. They were able to incorporate the skills they were learning in this structured university environment and bring these into the classroom at the college level. In effect as a teacher, they were able to extend them easily by incorporating their current work from within the H Course and apply it within the framework of the college music units and program. This had the effect of creating a symbiosis between the music department at the college level and the H Course university program. These students were often also leaders in the classroom and the school community within the college. Being highly self-motivated, their enthusiasm and attention to detail in music both academically and practically in performance would often rub off on the other members of the class, some of whom were just starting out on their own musical journey.

The fact that the H Course in music was such a natural pathway over many decades for many musicians to develop their skills should not be discounted lightly. In fact, it could be reflected that this created a culture of excellence in Canberra around music, recognised both nationally and internationally.... Many of these students went on to play professionally in other orchestras in their own right. You can't put a price on that level of teaching and instruction in any field let alone in music and all of this was happening in Canberra."

Demand

The total number of year 11 and 12 students in the ACT is just under 10,000. Historically, a total of around 63 (0.63%) year 11 and 12 students per year were able to participate in the H Course Music program.

Of this cohort, approximately 55% percent of the students were drawn from public schools, while 45% were drawn from private schools. Of the 63 students enrolled, there were seven students residing outside of the ACT. Entry to the course is by audition.

Alternate Programs

More broadly, Music programs feature throughout all ACT public schools. For primary school students, music is offered as a part of the Australian Curriculum. Primary schools may also supplement this offering by making available music tuition provided by a community organisation, a for profit provider or an individual artist who provides in-school music programs based on the individual needs and priorities of the school.

Secondary school students are required to study a minimum of two arts subjects in year 7 and 8 – which may include music. In years 9 and 10 students can elect to study at least one arts subject, which may include music.

Additionally, the Instrumental Music Program (IMP) offers a range of programs to extend young musicians in from ACT public schools. IMP offer nine ensembles; two choirs (one year 4-6 and one year 7-12), two year 6 concert bands, one year 7 & 8 concert band, one year 9-12 concert band, one year 9-12 stage band (jazz) and a flute and percussion ensemble. They perform locally, interstate and internationally.

In line with principles outlined within the 2015 ACT Arts Policy, the new Community Outreach funding has been revised to reflect increased access and inclusion of a greater diversity of community participants. In order to align the ANU Community Outreach Program with this directive, and to ensure consistency with arts funding guidelines, the ACT Government is funding new programs through the School of Music focused on arts development outcomes for a broader range of participants. In 2018, the new programs are Girls Rock, Girls Jazz, Community School of Rock, My Song, and Developing Musicians.

The programs provide inclusive opportunities across the community including for girls, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, emerging artists including ACT school students, and practicing artists.

Emerging artists, including Canberra students wishing to engage with music development programs through the Community Outreach Program at the School of Music, have access to the new Developing Musicians program. This program was for Year 7 to Year 10 students in the previous Outreach Program and was expanded to include Year 11 and Year 12 to enable these students continued access to music development opportunities after the cessation of the Music for Colleges program. The Developing Musicians program develops the music skills of participants at all levels of ability and is open to all emerging artists and provides considerable opportunities for students to gain skills in music and engage in music performances, including those in years 11 and 12.

Options for continuing the program including, but not limited to:

Alternative funding streams

There is no arts funding available for the Music for Colleges program after 2019.

Education Directorate will continue to fund the ANU \$120,000 to deliver the H Courses. As per the Deed, the ANU will use this funding to provide H Course offerings. ANU are able to decide which offerings it will provide.

Education Directorate will continue discussions with the ANU about alternate service delivery models to support talented musicians looking for extension. However, funding at the rate that artsACT provided (for the Music for Colleges program), is not available.

Alternative delivery streams

Many ACT schools provide music programs that may contribute towards ATAR as part of their curriculum. There are also several community organisations and individual artists that provide in-school music programs based on the individual priorities of each school to support the priorities of the school community.

All ACT Public Senior Secondary Colleges will continue to offer both Tertiary (T) and Accredited (A) music courses. Some colleges will also offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Music. A number of colleges, also offer modified and vocational music courses.

Canberra students can also access other government-funded music programs including through Music For Canberra at the Ainslie Arts Centre, and music engagement activities by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

Any other relevant matter

Nil comment.

GLOSSARY

H Courses is a BSSS classification given to a year 11 and 12 course which is designed and accredited (in this case by the ANU) and where successful completion of the course will be recognised towards an undergraduate degree with the university. Successful completion of H Courses, via the ANU Extension Program, provides students with early entry offers to ANU as well as credits towards both Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) and a Bachelor degree in the related discipline.

Music for Colleges - was part of a three-year funding agreement with the Australian National University (the ANU) and the ACT Government. The program was focussed on music development and community access programs.

Community Outreach Program - the funding agreement that included the Music for Colleges funding is known as the Community Outreach Program and was delivered in total by the School of Music and the School of Art and Design.

The funding to the School of Music pre-dates self-government. Over time, the delivery approach to this funding has evolved from a core funding arrangement to a program delivery model with a continuing focus on community participation and access in the arts.

The Community Outreach Program funding agreement expired on 31 December 2016 but was extended to 31 December 2017. Grandfathering provisions are in place for students currently in the program, this will cease at the end of 2019. In 2018 artsACT implemented a new Community Outreach Program that included a series of new programs focussed on engaging sectors of the community that otherwise may experience barriers or disadvantage that inhibit their participation in the arts.

Deed of Grant – used where money is paid purely as a grant to assist an organisation to carry agreed activities. A Deed of Grant constitutes a formal legal agreement.



Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate

Education Directorate

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