

From: Damian
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2010 11:28 PM
To: Committees
Subject: submission for inquiry into live community events

Dear Committee members,

A couple of weekends ago I played a gig in Melbourne with my band. We organised it with two Melbourne-based acts, hiring a large empty hall in High Street Northcote. It was a real do-it-yourself set up, and we put music at the centre of things. It started early, there was easy access and it was cheap to get in. At least a hundred, maybe a hundred and fifty, people of all ages came along, and they seemed to enjoy themselves. The musicians enjoyed it too - a couple of the Melbourne folk said that it was the 'perfect' gig.

It was a community music event in every sense - it must be the kind of thing that is at the heart of what you are looking at with your inquiry.

Interestingly, even in a large city like Melbourne, with a thriving music scene and traditional venues, the critical thing that made it work for the audience and the musicians was the availability of an empty space in a central part of town.

One of the things that the government can do to support these kinds of events in Canberra is give musicians better access to space in which to perform. Ideally the government would provide a dedicated space, like the Albert Hall (or even just the smaller rooms at the front of it, and upstairs, partitioned from the main hall), or the Fitter's Workshop in Kingston. The government might also facilitate better access for musicians to the city's theatres, or the numerous public buildings that could be utilised as performance spaces.

Canberra is unusual in that there is so much centrally located public space. It would be good to be able to use that space for, among other things, music.

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