



**Katy Gallagher MLA**

**DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

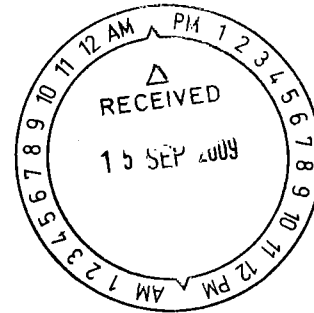
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Ms Mary Porter  
Chair  
Standing Committee of Planning, Public Works  
and Territory and Municipal Services  
GPO Box 1020,  
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Ms Porter

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2009 to the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope MLA, regarding the inquiry into Live Music Events being undertaken by the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services. I am responding on behalf of Mr Stanhope as he is currently on leave.

Live music is an important component of the cultural life of the ACT community and live concerts and performances are pivotal in helping Australian performers showcase their talents, hone their skills and earn an income.

The ACT Government has a number of ways in which it provides support to artists and organisations to stage live music events. The ACT Arts Fund is one of the main ways the ACT Government supports the arts in the ACT. In the 2009 Project and Community Arts Funding rounds, \$970,000 in funding was provided to support over 70 individual artists, arts groups, and community organisations to undertake one-off arts projects. This included organisations wishing to stage live music concerts and festivals. The ACT Arts Fund also provides significant support to ACT Key Arts Organisations which provide venues, infrastructure and advice to assist with the delivery of live music events in the ACT.

In addition to the ACT Arts Fund the Government provides support to live music events through other initiatives including the ACT Festivals Fund, Health Promotions Sponsorships and Youth Interact Grants. The Government also supports venues used for live music events such as the Albert Hall and the new outdoor performance space being built at Tuggeranong.

The Government also supports the local music industry through its programs of free live music performances in Civic known as 'Groovin' in Garema', and right across Canberra as a part of Urban Parks and Places' 'round town' events. Paid local musicians also form an important part of the other community celebrations such as New Years Eve and Party in the Park.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Regulations controlling the hosting and performance of live music are in place to ensure the safety and amenity of the public, patrons, performers and venue operators. However, they can also present barriers to growing a live entertainment industry. It is important that there is a balance between protecting local amenities whilst encouraging a vibrant music sector.

The issue is one being experienced by all Australian states and territories and the Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) has made contemporary music performance a priority. It has established a Working Group on Contemporary Music Development to look at ways to encourage contemporary music practice across Australia and has commissioned the writing of a best practice guide for the development of a legislative and regulatory environment supporting live music and entertainment. The report will be considered by the CMC at its meeting in October 2009. This report can be made available to the Standing Committee when it has been approved.

In July 2008 the Chief Minister wrote to the Minister for Planning, the Minister for Territories and Municipal Services, and the Minister for Justice and Community Safety stating that he wished to investigate legislative and/or regulatory action to reduce barriers to live music performance in the ACT. While the ACT Government and various government departments have considered these issues for a number of years, particularly in relation to noise issues associated with live music events, there has not generally been a co-ordinated approach.

To address this, the Chief Minister's Department has established an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) to examine the reduction of barriers to the production of live music in the ACT. The IDC met for the first time on 18 August 2009 and agreed to the following terms of reference:

- consider the barriers which exist to the production of live music in the ACT in particular in relation to legislation and regulation;
- examine ways in which the barriers to the production of live music in the ACT could be reduced; and
- develop a cabinet submission which addresses these issues.

The issues paper presented to the first IDC meeting which provides additional information on the matters to be considered by the IDC. If the Standing Committee would like any further information on the IDC please contact Nigel Featherstone, Manager, Arts Development, artsACT on 6207 2381.

I wish the Standing Committee well in its deliberations and I look forward to the outcome of the inquiry when it is presented to the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely



Katy Gallagher MLA  
Acting Chief Minister

11 SEP 2009