

# Australian Music Education - Status & Priorities



Music Australia seeks increased commitments by the Australian Government so all Australian students can benefit from universal access to music in our schools.

## Our priorities for Government

- Ensure that music education is available to all students from P-8
- Secure adequate reporting procedures for schools and systems through COAG\*
- Institute specialist arts subjects, including music, in tertiary learning (TEMAG\*\*)
- Confer arts and music education with the same status as STEM subjects
- Promote a national best practice quality framework that supports music in schools
- Continue to invest in national participation programs including Music: Count Us In

## An education inclusive of music maximises student opportunity

Music education must be accessible for all children. Students without access to quality music learning miss out on opportunities to maximise their potential. It is a parental expectation that music be part of the school learning experience for children.

<b>Best practice</b>	<b><i>An education inclusive of music maximises student opportunity</i></b>
Intrinsic Value PISA***	“We learn music because it is good.” – Richard Gill AO OAM The world’s leading nations all include music as a core subject P - Year 8/9.
<b>Benefits</b>	<b><i>An education that includes music benefits all students</i></b>
Literacy	Music education increases memory, concentration and listening skills
Numeracy	Aids the development of neural pathways
Personal & Social Skills	Improves confidence, self-expression, teamwork, collaboration and sharing
Creativity and culture	Fosters creativity, the willingness to explore, and our collective identity
<b>Opportunity</b>	<b><i>Access to music education demonstrates student opportunity</i></b>
Access	Music provides opportunity for students to transcend disadvantage
Enjoyment	Music is enjoyable, culturally engaging, it’s important to children and teens
Disadvantage	Students without access to music learning are at a significant educational disadvantage, and miss the opportunity to maximise their potential
<b>Economic</b>	<b><i>Music education contributes to our modern economy</i></b>
Creative Industries	Music education underpins Australia’s creative and innovation sectors
In demand skills	Transferable skills learned through music are valued by Australian businesses

## Challenges

- Music is overlooked - not an obvious solution to improving literacy and numeracy
- Music is neglected in teacher training - graduates lack skills and confidence
- Music is part of daily life but it is often viewed as elite or inaccessible

\*COAG - Council of Australian Governments

\*\*TEMAG - Teachers Education Ministerial Advisory Group, Recommendation 18

\*\*\*PISA - Programme for International Student Assessment

*Music Australia is an umbrella body for all Australian music*

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