

MEDIA RELEASE: Music: Count Us In Receives Funding Extension

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A VOICE FOR ALL MUSIC

The Minister for Education, Hon Dan Tehan MP has announced the Federal Government will extend the funding of our world leading school music program Music: Count Us In to 2019. This ensures that over half a million students will participate in a formal music education experience this year.

The Federal Government has announced it will provide an additional \$450,000 in 2019, to support Australia's largest school-based music initiative.

The Music: Count Us In program is helping over 745,000 students schools across the country participate in music education by providing resources and skills development opportunities for teachers.

Hon Dan Tehan MP said "Music enriches our lives, and helps bring people and communities together."

"The program also provides professional support for music classes, which is particularly important for schools in socio-economic disadvantaged areas."

"Music can be a powerful and transformative teaching tool and the Morrison Government can fund programs like Music: Count Us In because we are keeping the economy strong."

Music Australia Chair Michael Smellie said "The funding of Music: Count Us In for 2019, will significantly benefit hundreds of thousands of children. We know from our research, that this program enhances learning experiences and improves confidence and social interaction of students. The impact will be most felt in those areas currently most disadvantaged in music resources, particularly in remote and regional Australia."

Music: Count Us In is delivered by Music Australia.

About Music: Count Us In (MCUI)

MCUI is Australia's largest school music advocacy and participation program, growing in its reach and impact since 2007. This year over half a million young people learned how to rehearse and perform the same song, at the same time, right across Australia. We have over 9,000 teachers registered and using the programs in their classrooms. MCUI is run by the Music Australia and funding is provided by the Australian Government through the Department of Education and Training. www.musicaustralia.org.au/countusin

About Music Australia

Music Australia is a not for profit national umbrella body, representing all aspects of Australian musical life. Activities span education, community and the professional industry, and include industry plans, resources, sector engagement, and programs like Music: Count Us In and projects like the Contemporary Music Roundtable. www.musicaustralia.org.au

To arrange an interview or request for a comment please contact Music Education Campaign Manager, Jim Finn: jim@musicaustralia.org.au