

PRESS RELEASE: Roundtable Grapples With Key Hot Issues for Music Industry



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Two hundred industry leaders converged on Sydney's Customs House last week for the third Contemporary Music Roundtable Conference.

Key issues discussed included fostering young people's engagement in music, improving mental health of music industry professionals, and closing the gender inequality gap.

Delegates were boosted by considerable industry optimism with a return to positive growth after a long period of decline. In a *State of the Industry Session*, ARIA and APRA AMCOS chiefs Dan Rosen and Brett Cottle noted that recorded music and performance royalties are all trending solidly upwards.

The live music scene however is mixed, with declines in some areas that require monitoring and boosting in others. A Young People in Music Panel called for more all ages gigs and incentives to encourage promoters and venues to host Under 18 shows. An Audience Development session led to an announcement that Australian Music Industry Network (AMIN) would conduct an audience development survey to better understand and address these issues.

On the research front delegates were updated on an important music export study by Sounds Australia and university partners, and a planned survey into freelance musicians by AMIN and Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

A key topic was improving music industry gender diversity, coming hot on the heels of [new research](#) showing that although women make up 45% of qualified musicians and music student, this is in no way reflected across industry. Women comprise just one-fifth of Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) membership and 28% of "senior and strategic roles in key industry organisations". Delegates addressed specific strategies for action to deliver improvements, and further announcements are expected as Music Australia works with industry partners on a national approach.

A *Sound Solutions* Forum delivered in partnership with City of Sydney explored the complex issues of balancing live music and citizens interests in inner city areas, with findings to be detailed in a white paper to be published by City of Sydney and Music Australia in the coming months.

Music Australia CEO Chris Bowen noted the collaboration and goodwill at the conference spoke volumes for the health of the industry: ***"We were delighted to work with a range of presenting partners on specific policy and industry development actions to drive Australian music industry growth"***

13 peak bodies and representatives from all facets of the industry attended the three day conference which concluded with a Thursday plenary session.

Outcomes tabled at the plenary included:

To arrange an interview please contact: Cara Anderson, Communications and Engagement Manager, Music Australia: Email: cara@musicaustralia.org.au

- Announcement of formation of a new national body *Music Education Group Australia* (MEGA) as a sub-committee of Music Australia
- Recommended actions to improve mental health to be taken to a Mental Health Summit in September
- Creation of a gender diversity advisory group drawn from key industry bodies and representatives

And calls for:

- More Australian content in top streaming lists
- A funding program to incentivise venues and promoters to host U18s shows
- Better relationship between education and industry
- Governments to recognise the innovative nature of the Australian music industry, as well as its cultural and economic significance
- Government to reject any changes to the Australian copyright framework, particularly changes to the safe harbour scheme and introduction of a broad fair use exception.

For more information on the Contemporary Music Roundtable [head to our website](#).