



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into the cultural and creative industries in Victoria

Hearing Date: 12 March 2025

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Craig Barrie, Community Music Victoria

Received Date: 14 March 2025

1. Asked by Katherine Copsey, p. 17

Question Asked:

Katherine COPSEY: You mentioned a couple of existing modalities or maybe courses that help people gain these skills. Can you describe what those are like at the moment? Are they just resources that people would find on the internet and, as you said, collaborate locally to upskill in, or are there training pathways like diplomas and so on that would be a good way to formalise and make this skill set more available?

Craig BARRIE: That is a good question. With CM Vic there is not a diploma at the moment. In New Zealand they have a diploma, which Nicki will know the name of – I cannot remember it. There are community music subjects in some universities. I think USQ might have one at the moment. I can check that. I can take that on notice. CM Vic looked at whether we should do something like that and decided that an online introductory course – a free, openly available, online introduction to community music leading – would be a great resource, especially for the volunteers. It costs a bit to do. We have done a bit of the work already to get there, but getting it into a pedagogically robust state is the next step

Response:

In 2019–20 CMVic embarked on an international and local search for Community Music subjects and courses. Our Growing Community Music (GCM) Final Report includes a summary of these findings which are also published on our website here: <https://cmvic.org.au/pages/gcm-international-research-report>.

CMVic offers a free online and paid print version of [How to Start a Music or Singing Group](#) and we are developing an online “Singing for Inclusion” (SINC) online course in partnership with the With One Voice choir network, specifically focussed on upskilling leaders to provide singing opportunities for

participants/clients who present with a range of social and mental health needs. In both cases, a skilled instructional designer would be helpful for making these more pedagogically effective, but resourcing has not allowed for that to date (the COVID-19 pandemic led to a state-wide shortage of instructional designers, as the education sector pivoted to online learning).