

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Education & Training Committee



Committee to consider whether school music education is hitting the right note in Mildura

29 April 2013

The Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee is visiting Mildura as part of its Inquiry into music education in Victorian schools. The Committee will speak with local schools, students, music teachers and community groups to learn more about the state of music education in the region.

"The Committee is aware that there are some excellent music programs operating in schools in the Mildura region. However, we have also heard that many schools in rural and regional Victoria struggle to provide strong music programs," said the Committee's Chair and member for Caulfield, Mr David Southwick MP.

The Committee has heard that a range of factors can impact on the ability of rural and regional schools to offer a quality music education. These factors include access to specialist music teachers, the level of musical skill and confidence of classroom teachers and the available time in the curriculum.

"The Committee believes that all Victorian students should have access to music education as part of their education," said Mr Southwick. "Not only do they gain enjoyment and reward from making and listening to music, but research also shows that learning music can lead to improved academic and social outcomes for children and young people."

The Committee hopes to learn more about what music education approaches work well in rural and regional communities, and seek views on what can be done to improve the delivery of music education.

The Committee invites all interested members of the public to attend the public hearings at MADEC, 126-130 Deakin Avenue, Mildura. The hearings will take place at:

- 10.45 am to 4.15 pm on Wednesday 1 May 2013
- 9.15 am to 12.45 pm on Thursday 2 May 2013.

The Committee will also visit Red Cliffs Secondary College to see the school's music program in action and speak with staff, students and parents.

To view the public hearing timetable and the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry visit www.parliament.vic.gov.au.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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