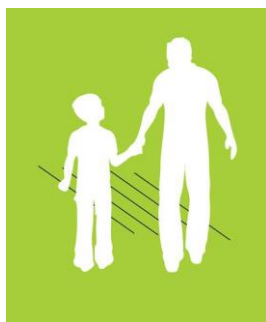


MUSIC IS GOOD

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY MUSIC AUSTRALIA

An education inclusive of music maximises student opportunity.

Music maximises student engagement and provides opportunities for a child's personal development. It makes a contribution to a child's individual development that no other subject can match. Young people who engage with music are more likely to be "better citizens". Music helps underperforming students to improve. Incorporating music into other subjects, including key learning areas, helps kids to learn. (References 1-5)



Australian parents value music and want their kids to be involved.

90% of Australian parents advocate for music education and think that music is an essential part of a young child's learning. Parents are some of the greatest advocates for music education and they are often best positioned to fight for their child's right to access quality learning opportunities in music. Many programs like Music: Count Us In work with parents and guardians around the country to deliver learning and performance opportunities for all children.

Music improves confidence, self-expression and fosters creativity.

Music is a powerful tool in enhancing health and wellbeing. Creating and performing music can improve a young person's sense of self-worth and promote positive self-confidence. Creating, learning and performing music is rewarding for children in many ways. It helps them to express themselves and allows an opportunity for them to feel valued. Music facilitates and nurtures emotional growth by teaching students about responsibility, expression and assessment. (Reference 6)



Music promotes teamwork and collaboration.

Making music with other people helps to establish a culture of tolerance and acceptance. Creating and experiencing music as a group leads young people to understand and value diversity. It promotes sharing, listening and encourages social growth by asking students to work together. Children learn to respect the opinions and ideas of others through making music collaboratively and have the chance to celebrate the things that make people different. (References 7-9)

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Music develops neural pathways and enhances brain function.

Music stimulates incomparable development of a child's brain and leads to improved concentration and memory abilities. Physical changes to the brain and cognitive improvements through music are measurable in many ways. Most notably, MRI shows that musical tasks can activate all 4 lobes of the brain, as well as parts of the cerebellum. Music, quite literally, gets the whole brain working. (References 10-17)

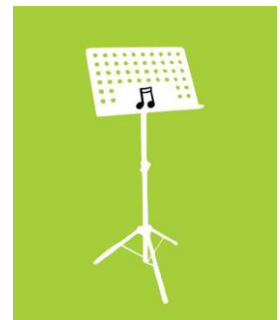


Australia lags behind other countries in provision of school music.

The world's leading nations all include music as a core subject. Countries like Hungary, Japan and Netherlands have strong commitments to music in their schools from early primary years. This commitment is reflected in terms of academic results in these top performing countries. Australia can learn from improved provision of music education from places like the United Kingdom.

Too many kids miss out on quality music education at school.

For music education to be effective, it must be continuous, sequential and developmental. Music education is for everyone and should not be a privilege of the wealthy. All students should have the opportunity to access music education. Pre-service primary teachers barely receive any training to establish or develop skills and confidence in teaching music. This is just one of the reasons that students miss out on music at schools. (References 18-19)



Music is good for Australia's social, cultural and economic growth.

Skills learned through music are valued and needed in everyday life. Music celebrates and facilitates diversity and accessibility - encouraging people to work together and experience new things with others. Music underpins Australia's creative sectors and supports the development of other industries. Those who actively engage with music develop skills that are valued by Australian businesses.

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