



Australian
Society for
Music
Education

Australian Society for Music Education (ASME) 2025 Federal Pre-Election Statement

About ASME

The Australian Society for Music Education (ASME) is a professional teacher association that aims to support, represent, and advocate for music education at all levels and sectors in Australia as an integral part of education and community life. Our approximate 1,000 members are music educators in early childhood settings, primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and community and professional music organisations across the country.

Music Education Matters Now

The upcoming election presents a critical opportunity to address the significant challenges facing music education in Australia:

- Inequitable quality and access to school music education
- Declining enrolments in secondary school elective music subjects
- Inadequate specialist music teacher preparation
- Closure of tertiary music programs
- Volunteer professional music teacher associations

These challenges come at a time when research consistently demonstrates that music education improves academic outcomes, enhances student wellbeing, builds social cohesion, and develops essential skills for the future workforce.

Most Australians engage with music and believe it should be an important part of education. Yet this strong community support is not reflected in current education policy and funding priorities.

Time to Commit

As Australia approaches the federal election, ASME calls on all political parties and candidates to commit to the following priorities:

1. Equitable Access to Quality School Music Education

Pledge to establish dedicated policy and resourcing to provide equitable opportunities to school music education, ensuring all primary and lower secondary school students in Australia have access to quality and ongoing music education delivered by a confident and skilled teacher.

2. Reform Higher Education Funding

Commit to reviewing the Job Ready Graduates Scheme's impact on secondary school and university music education and fixing funding models to ensure the viability of tertiary music programs.

3. Musicians in Schools Initiative

Support the establishment of a national program connecting professional musicians in industry with schools to enrich student learning and strengthen music education delivery.

4. Music Specialist Teacher Education

Commit to expanding teacher education pathways and frameworks for primary and secondary school music specialist teachers, prioritising regional and rural areas.

5. Invest in Music Education Research

Commit to dedicated research funding to further understand the provision of music education in Australia in and beyond schools and universities to inform future practice and system reform.

6. Support Music Teacher Professional Associations

Pledge ongoing funding support for music teacher professional associations that provide vital professional development, resourcing, support, and advocacy.

Political Party and Candidate Response

Music education is not a partisan issue. It is an essential investment in Australia's cultural, social, and economic future. We urge all political parties and candidates to acknowledge the importance of music education and also to provide specific commitments on:

1. Budget allocations they will make for music education initiatives
2. Timeline for implementing the requested policy actions
3. How they will measure and report on improvements in music education

We stand ready to work with the incoming government to implement these priorities and ensure every person in Australia can access the benefits of quality music education.

For further information please contact:

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