

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly urge you to reconsider the pending cuts to the arts sector.

As an audience member/supporter of the arts, I find it incredulous that cuts would be considered to a sector that already receives such limited funding.

The arts offer us, as Australians, such a wealth of experiences and entertainment. Without the funding it receives, many extremely talented artists will never have the opportunity to explore and develop their talent.

I have two daughters, one in primary school and one in high school.

In the past week, I have been lucky enough to witness

- An absolutely spectacular production of Miss Saigon, performed at Manly Selective Campus. There are so many supremely talented young people involved in this high school production. If you ever find yourself with the opportunity to attend one of Manly Selective's annual musicals, I strongly urge you to do so.
- The Sydney North Dance Festival, where over 3000 public school students have the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre in front of their loved ones.
- The end of term expo at our local primary school, where two drama groups performed and eight classes danced for their parents.
- Northern Beaches Instrumental Music Festival - where my daughter's school band performed. I would like to add, that there are four bands at my daughter's primary school, Manly West, as the band program is so strong that 75% of the students are involved.

It has been an incredibly busy but an enjoyable week, full of such rich and rewarding experiences for my children to be involved in, and for me and other family members to witness. There has been little traditional school work completed, as the teachers, principal and parents find these Art opportunities such an important aspect of their education. I do have to stop and wonder why we are bothering to teach our children the love of visual art, drama, dance, music etc if there will be no avenue to pursue these passions once they have left school.

Kind Regards,
Kristie Kha