



## Gordon Ramsay MLA

Attorney-General  
Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events  
Minister for Building Quality Improvement  
Minister for Business and Regulatory Services  
Minister for Seniors and Veterans  
Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory  
PO Box 1020  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2018 regarding petition numbers 18-18 and 24-18 lodged by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA and received by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2018.

The petitioners have requested the ACT Government commit to restoring funding of \$270,000 for the H course music.

In accordance with Standing Order 100, I provide you with the following response to the petition for presentation to the Assembly.

I would firstly like to clarify that the music program funded by the government is known as the Music for Colleges program. It is not funded as the H course music. The intention of Music for Colleges program is to develop the artistic skills of the participants rather than any focus on education qualifications or university credits. It is therefore difficult to compare to the H courses offered in other disciplines through the ANU College Extension Program.

The decision to transition the Music for College from government arts funding by the end of 2019 was made public in February 2018. The decision was part of a strategy to refocus the programs that the Australian National University (ANU) provides under the Community Outreach Program for both the School of Music and the School of Art and Design. The government commenced these discussions with the ANU on the new Community Outreach Program in December 2016.

These changes are designed to shift direct support for students in the school environment, to supporting a broader cross section of the community to access government funded music programs. Hence the important change in language and focus to arts development rather than education outcomes.

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### ACT Legislative Assembly

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Funding under the Community Outreach Program, and the subsequent revisiting of the music and visual arts programs, has resulted in a range of exciting new activities which are described further below.

In making these changes, I believe we now have better reach into the wider community, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, women and people experiencing disadvantage. The new music programs also better align with the ACT Arts Policy and the Social Inclusion in the Arts Plan, and will receive funding of \$512,000 per year over the next three years.

The new music programs include Girls Jazz for women and girls, the Community School of Rock for all members of the community to further develop their music skills, My Song mentorship program with Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth, and the Developing Musicians program, which provides non-auditioned music tuition, workshops and ensemble performances for Year 7 to 12 students.

Canberra students wishing to engage with music development programs through the Community Outreach Program at the School of Music will have access to the Developing Musicians program, as described above. This program was for Year 7 to Year 10 students in the previous Outreach Program, and was expanded to include Year 11 and Year 12 to enable these students continued access to music development opportunities. This program develops the music skills of participants at all levels of ability.

artsACT is having ongoing discussions with the School of Music about the Developing Musicians program and its activities and outcomes, as this program is further developed over the next three years. While this program is not intended to replace the Music for Colleges program, the Developing Musicians program provides considerable opportunities for students to gain skills in music and engage in music performances.

I understand that the Developing Musicians program, as well as the Community Rock and Girls Jazz programs, have been particularly popular with the community.

Canberra students also have access to a number of other opportunities to engage with music through the government's Instrumental Music Program. Many ACT schools provide music programs as part of their curriculum and there are a number of community organisations and individual artists that provide in-school music programs.

Canberra students can also access other government-funded music programs including through Music For Canberra at the Ainslie Arts Centre, and music engagement activities by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to the Community Outreach Program, the government also funds the Advanced Music Performance Program at the School of Music at \$250,000 per year to 2021. This is a new program focusing on high level performance activities for undergraduate students and commenced in 2019.

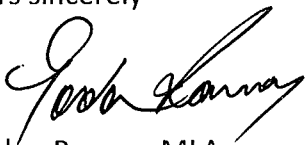
ACT Education provides \$120,000 per year to the ANU for an Extension program for year 11 and 12 students in ACT schools and colleges. ANU Extension students can enrol in an ANU academic award programs and be able to undertake courses in sciences, engineering, mathematics and Asian languages.

In addition to these programs, the government provides funding to ANU associated with research projects, learning and development programs, infrastructure, scholarships, research grants and jointly supported faculties.

This significant funding and support to the ANU highlights the government's commitment to arts and education, and our ongoing important partnerships with the ANU.

Thank you for bringing this petition to the attention of the ACT Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Ramsay', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Ramsay MLA

27 FEB 2019