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2. The development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life and employment prospects

TAFE and ARTS Training

It seems to me that musicians and artists in this country **subsidise** cultural production and provision for all Australians.

This artist subsidy takes the form of the **low pay** they receive (most of them anyway).

Australians might like Australian music and the arts but they also **NEED** them as in they are a requirement for a full, balanced and happy societal existence in this country. Part of a decent life here. (see Australia Council research).

If Aussie artists of all stripes are **providing** a subsidy for the provision of the culture that Australians **need** - then they are **OWED** something!

The very least that they are owed is readily available & affordable **TRAINING** in their artistic field. This traditionally means TAFE and continues to do so.

Our Australian Society through governments have a duty to provide this training.

It's not up to governments to turn around and say that they can see no value in this training – to ask where are the formal jobs. There are formal jobs in steel making and footwear production any fool can see that – jobs in cultural production are a **different thing** – but absolutely of no lesser value to the country.

I think committed artists are brave souls and TAFE's around this country have been turning them out for years and must continue to do so.

Ross Stagg