



**Frances
Bedford**

Independent State MP for Florey

MEDIA RELEASE

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Music Education in SA Schools – A sign of the rot in the system

The re-organisation of music education and continued privatisation of music tuition in the SA public school system ignores the long-term benefits of creative arts education.

Frances Bedford (IND) the State Member for Florey said educational activities such as music, that have powerful long-term effects, are being dumbed down to the extent that many children have almost no real exposure to music in school.

“Literacy and numeracy are the most important skills education needs to develop, but these skills also need to be applied in broad and creative ways,” Ms Bedford said.

“Music is a subject that brings together literacy and numeracy, with creativity, fine and gross motor skills, and collaborative learning,” she said.

“With the PISA ([Program for International Student Assessment](#)) tests now including collaborative learning as a measure of educational attainment, it’s backward looking for South Australia to marginalise music in the school curriculum.”

Ms Bedford said it was even more remarkable given the status of Adelaide as a [UNESCO City of Music](#) with the express purpose of fostering love for and engagement with music through education and participation.

“The aspirations set out for Adelaide as a UNESCO City of Music, are hardly likely to be met, if music education is undermined and whittled away in the public education system.”

“It’s remarkable that South Australia, which was once a leader in the use of Music Education as a compulsory component of the school curriculum, is now lagging.”

“Music must be taught by specialist music educators, not only people who are excellent musicians. Because music is a skill that takes a long time to develop, the continuity of specialist music educators is essential.”

“During my visits to end of year schools concerts I’ve had complaints from constituents about the quality of music tuition under the new system, and particularly the out-sourcing of music tuition to people without formal training in education.”

“Public School students, especially those from lower income families, need exposure to music at school and access to instruments.”