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# Youth and music in Australia — literature review

As the first part of a joint research project, the ABA, the Australia Council and the Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA) have released a comprehensive literature review of youth and music in Australia.

The research monograph, *Youth and Music in Australia - a review* was prepared by Juliet London and Jenny Hearder from Juliet London Research & Consultancy Pty Ltd.

The project is exploring in detail the role music plays in the lives of teenagers and young adults (12 to 24 years).

The review focuses on youth and their access to and consumption of music through various media (including the Internet), their participation in musical activities, preferred forms of music, and attitudes to Australian versus overseas music.

The report presents a summary of research currently available and identifies relevant issues for exploration and analysis in the next stage of the research project. These include:

- young people's use of new

technologies such as the Internet, especially in the creation and distribution of music;

- the impact of new technologies on young people's consumption of music; and
- up-to-date information on the preferred styles or types of music favoured by young people.

## **Project stages**

Other stages of the project will include interviews with key stakeholders in music and youth organisations and both qualitative and quantitative research conducted with young people. For the qualitative stage, focus groups were recently held in a number of locations around Australia with teenagers and young adults. The final stage, a national survey, is currently being developed. The results of these later stages will be published in further parts of the monograph in late 1997.

## **Aims**

This project aims to explore in detail the role that music plays in the lives of youth, recognising the cultural and economic



influence of contemporary music. While each of the research partners has an interest in this area the emphasis of this interest varies.

## **The organisations involved**

The ABA is responsible for the planning, licensing and regulation of broadcasting services in Australia. This research will inform the ABA's spectrum planning and licensing process, especially in relation to community services in capital cities where there may be opportunities for broadcasting services which address the needs of local youth through new youth-oriented services.

The Australia Council is the Federal Government's princi-

pal arts funding and advisory body. It serves the Australian community by stimulating and enriching the cultural life of Australia. The project will inform the Australia Council's development of strategies for youth arts and explores issues in support of contemporary or popular Australian music.

ARIA represents the broad interests of all member record companies. Its functions include acting as an advocate for the industry, domestically and internationally and being a focus for industry opinion and compiler of industry information and views.

**Copies of the monograph can be obtained from the ABA, price \$10, by calling (02) 9334 7700.**