

The Song Room Vision & Target Groups

The Song Room vision is that all Australian children have the opportunity to participate in music and the arts to enhance their education, personal development and community involvement.

The Song Room is a **national not-for-profit** organisation that provides opportunities for enhanced learning and development for disadvantaged children through music and the arts. Whilst **international research** has demonstrated that children who learn music and the arts have improved educational, social and personal outcomes, currently in **Australia up to 3 out of 4 children** in Government Primary Schools have no music teachers. That equates to over **700,000 children** missing out, and often they are the ones who need it most.

That is where The Song Room targets its efforts, providing tailored programs to disadvantaged children who would otherwise miss out. In particular, it now undertakes a range of specialist programs for such children in the following categories:

- **Socio-economically disadvantaged** school communities with no access to music and the arts;
- **Indigenous** communities both in urban and remote / rural regions;
- **special schools** with students with learning, health and disability challenges;
- **New arrivals** with English as a second language;
- **Disengaged** children with behavioural problems or in areas of high juvenile crime who need to re-engage at school;
- **Early intervention** programs for children (0-5 years) with parents in disadvantaged areas; and
- **Geographically isolated** and remote schools.

The Song Room Programs

The Song Room offers a range of tailored arts and music based programs including:

- Long-term school **workshops** (minimum of six months per school, one day per week);
- Community school **holiday intensives** involving parents and families and the broader community;
- Interactive **performance** programs;
- Significant **capacity building** and **resources** to build **self-sustainability** in each school, including:
 - Professional Development and mentoring for classroom teachers
 - Donation of instruments and education CDs through music industry sponsors
 - Curriculum and teaching materials for integrated learning & continued use
 - Development of community partnerships and linkages to increase access to other programs
 - A membership network for school to access ongoing support and resources to maintain and enhance sustainable outcomes post intensive programs
- Strategic **partnerships** and **collaboration** with arts-based and community-based organisations
- Importantly, a well designed **evaluation and research** component for its programs.

So far The Song Room has reached over **100,000** disadvantaged children with its programs and is expected to reach a further **40,000 disadvantaged children** in the 07/08 year alone. The Song Room, through support from primarily private, corporate and philanthropic supporters, will be operating programs in **200 schools** in 6 States and Territories of Australia in the 07/08 year.

The Unique Nature of The Song Room Programs

The Song Room programs are unique in that they:

- ✓ are **free** to schools, targeting **ONLY** the most disadvantaged communities to bridge gaps;
- ✓ are **long-term** and **tailored** to achieve broader educational and social impact;
- ✓ are **tailored** to a particular school / community requirement;
- ✓ build **capacity** for long-term sustainability;
- ✓ include a range of **music and arts** media;
- ✓ are developed to be **integrated** across the curriculum; and
- ✓ adopt a **partnership** approach wherever possible.

