

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - Music in Me teacher mentoring program

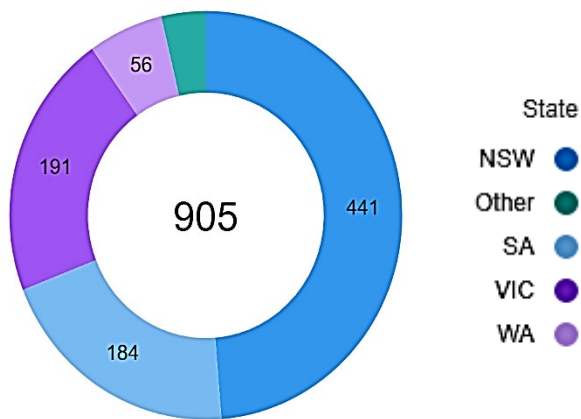
Thank you for the opportunity to present evidence to the Joint Select Committee on arts and music education and training in NSW. Further to Dr McGirr’s final questioning regarding the current reach of the Music in Me program, we present the following supplementary information.

2024 marks the ninth year of the implementation of *Music in Me* in Australian schools. Since 2015, we have facilitated mentoring of at least 905 teachers, directly benefiting tens of thousands of students in 466 schools, in metropolitan, regional and remote areas, from public, catholic and independent schools.

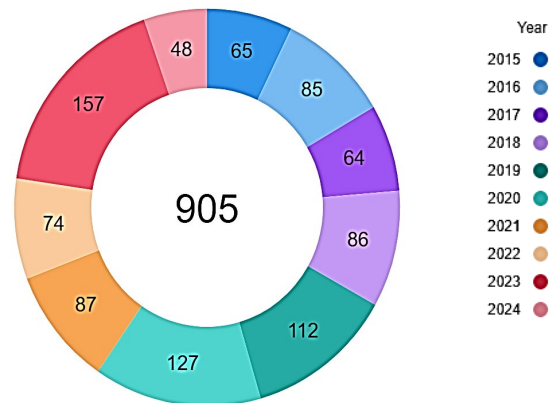
NSW is our largest footprint, representing 48% of our work to date:

*** Note that 2024 data is incomplete.**

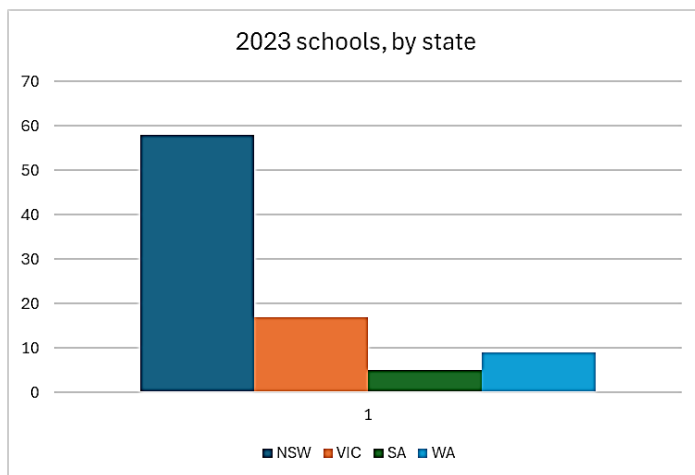
Number of teachers mentored – by state:



Number of teachers mentored – by year:

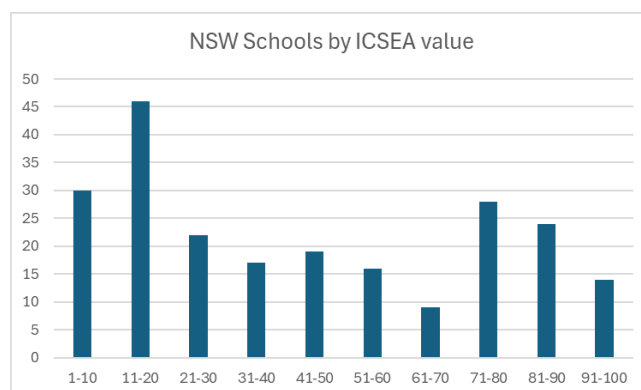
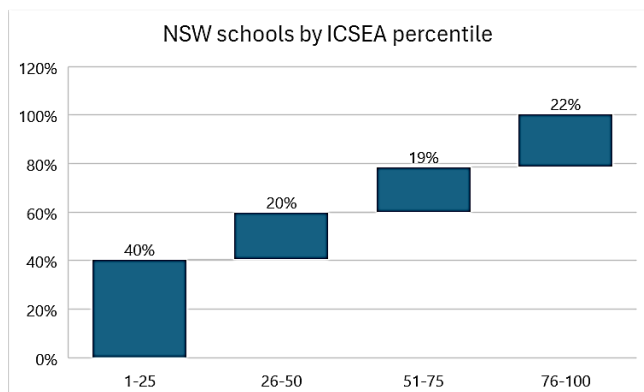


In 2023, NSW invested in applying the program to more schools than all other jurisdictions combined.



The ICSEA demographic of the schools we work with in NSW continues to be diverse, with a higher ratio of disadvantaged schools participating. The Music in Me teacher mentoring program is particularly effective - and needed - in low ICSEA schools. This is a factor we have identified and are strategically supporting within our current funding, through providing additional funds to cover travel and accommodation where helpful.

Since 2015, 40% of all schools we have worked with in NSW are in the 1-25% range, and 60% of schools we have placed mentors are below the 50th percentile band.



With the recent implementation of our digital learning platform, we are now able to onboard new mentors anywhere, at any time. A recent example of this is in Broken Hill, where leading music educator Annette Northey has been identified and invited to become a mentor within the NSW Department of Education. Following her completion of the 7 hour online learning modules, she is now ready to commence working with teachers throughout the region.

Steps to increasing our impact in NSW:

- create online learning for mentor training (completed, 2024)
- secure greater investment from NSW Department of Education to fund more instances of mentoring in 2025 and beyond
- secure additional investment from NSW Department of Education for Music in Me to directly engage mentors who are non-government employees - leading music teachers who have moved into the independent and catholic systems, interested to become mentors. This engagement would address the barrier of enabling access to sufficient well-trained music specialists as mentors. Mentors may be engaged directly by Music in Me, or mentor’s schools would seek reimbursement from Music in Me for casual relief.
- secure additional investment to support the provision of mentoring in regional and remote areas. Engaging a mentor in our intensive remote model includes funding for accommodation, travel and other relevant expenses.

Bernie Heard, National Manager, Music in Me teacher mentoring program
 Australian Youth Orchestra