



Musicians Hear Your Voices Project

Background

Music therapy is well recognised for the treatment of mental disorders.

Unfortunately the programs are expensive to create. Setting up the facility itself and purchasing the musical equipment is costly. The wages of specialist music therapists are also significantly higher than many other mental health therapists.

This project is about using the goodwill of St Vincent's Hospital to collaborate with former patients who share a passion and connection with music. The aim is through that collaboration to provide ongoing funding for such a program to be set up and funded in an ongoing manner in the O'Brien Centre, the inpatient mental health unit at St Vincent's Hospital.

The project

The proposal involves prominent musicians donating their time to perform on stage at the Garvan Institute Theatre, next door to the Hospital.

To keep costs down and the project manageable the initial thought is that apart from standard equipment such as microphones, piano and acoustic guitars, the performances would be 'unplugged.'

Performers, who received treatment at the Hospital, could be invited to provide concerts.

It is also likely that other prominent performers who have had nothing to do with the Hospital in the past, may also be prepared to perform. There are many who have regularly provided charity concerts for other causes in the past. It is likely that this particular charitable cause will resonate with their musical passions.

Tickets to the concert would be offered to both sponsors/supporters of the Hospital and the general public.

We are informed that if the event was filmed, there is likely to be a market for selling the recording through commercial outlets to raise even further money. We are also

informed that musicians and others rate the Garvan Theatrette very highly for its setting and acoustic qualities.

The concerts would be performed during each year to raise money for the music therapy program for that year. Who knows, one day it may be regarded as the pinnacle of a musician's career to be invited to perform at the annual 'Garvan Concert'.

To provide the necessary connection to the mental health unit in the O'Brien Centre, a suggestion is for each performer to also give a quick 30 minute unplugged performance in the Unit itself for the inpatients.