

## Template Email to Minister Burke and other MPs: Urgent Action Needed on ANU School of Music Cuts

### Subject Line Suggestions:

- Urgent: Save the ANU School of Music - National Cultural Emergency
- ACT's Cultural Heritage Under Threat - ANU School of Music Closure
- Your Immediate Action Required: ANU School of Music Cuts

### Text Template:

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**Dear Minister Burke,**

I am writing as a [MEAA union member/musician/music educator/concerned citizen] to express my grave concern about the Australian National University's proposal to merge the School of Music into a School of Cultural and Creative Practices and eliminate specialised programs in musicology, performance, and composition.

**This decision represents a cultural and educational catastrophe that demands your immediate intervention.**

### The Critical Impact

The proposed closure would:

- **Leave Australia's national capital without a specialised tertiary music school** - an unacceptable situation for any national capital
- **Eliminate the proven one-to-one teaching model** that has been the foundation of professional music education for centuries
- **Compel current students to either relocate interstate or abandon their musical careers**, creating significant accessibility barriers particularly for regional students
- **Devastate the local music ecosystem**, including the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and youth music programs
- **Create a critical skills shortage** in music education across the ACT and regional NSW

### Why This Matters to Our Community

The ANU School of Music has served as the cultural heart of the region since 1965. Its graduates perform on stages worldwide and provide music education in schools

throughout the ACT and southern NSW. The closure would leave the national capital without a tertiary music school and eliminate career pathways for musicians, composers, and music scholars not only in the ACT but across the nation.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) has [outlined](#) how this proposal represents short-term thinking that fundamentally misunderstands both the value of specialised music education and the collective power of the music community to defend it.

### **What I Am Asking You to Do**

As Federal Minister for the Arts, I urge you to:

1. **Intervene immediately** to prevent this closure and protect Australia's cultural infrastructure
2. **Call on ANU to withdraw this proposal** and engage in meaningful community consultation
3. **Ensure federal funding support** for specialised arts education at our national university
4. **Use your ministerial authority** to require ANU to maintain the School of Music
5. **Meet with affected students, staff, and the broader music community** to understand the full impact

### **The Broader Context**

This isn't just about one school - it's about Australia's commitment to cultural excellence and the role of our national capital in leading arts education. The systematic elimination of training pathways undermines our national cultural and economic capacity.

**Time is running out.** Community consultation closes on August 7th, 2025, and decisive ministerial action is needed now to prevent this irreversible damage to Australia's cultural infrastructure.

I look forward to your immediate response outlining the specific actions you will take as federal Arts Minister to address this crisis.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Your Contact Details]

[Your Union/Professional Affiliation if applicable]

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## **Customisation Ideas for Union Members:**

### **Personalise Your Email:**

- Add your specific profession (musician, teacher, student, etc.)
- Include relevant personal connections to the school (graduate, parent, community member)
- Mention specific local impacts you've witnessed or are concerned about

### **Add Local Context:**

- Reference your electorate specifically; adapt the template to send to your MP and identify that you are a constituent of their electorate
- Mention local venues, orchestras, or music programs that would be affected
- Include any economic arguments relevant to your area

### **Include Your Union Voice:**

- Mention your MEAA membership and the union's statement
- Reference collective action and solidarity with other unions (NTEU)
- Emphasise the importance of worker and student rights in this decision

### **Follow-Up Actions:**

- Request a meeting to discuss the issue in person
- Ask for a written response
- Offer to provide additional information or connect them with MEAA

### **Contact Information:**

#### **The Hon Tony Burke MP**

Federal Minister for Arts

Email: [tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 9750 9088

### **Social Media Amplification:**

After sending your email, consider:

- Sharing that you've contacted your MP on social media
- Tagging your MP in posts about the issue
- Using hashtags like #SaveANUMusic #MusicEducationMatters

Remember: Personal stories and local connections make the strongest impact. Please customise this template with your own experiences and concerns to make your voice heard effectively.