

**GREAT SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF TAFE — MUSIC AND ART COURSES**

*Petition*

**HON COL HOLT (South West)** [3.05 pm]: I present a petition containing 536 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

Current enrolled music and arts students at the Great Southern Institute of TAFE (GSIT) have received notice that the courses will no longer be publicly funded. There will be no more Cert II, III, IV and Diploma music and art courses run at any of the Great Southern Institutes Campuses as of January 2013, with the nearest campus over 450kms away. This will be a great loss to the health and wellbeing of our community and economically and professionally harmful to our region. We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to this decision. The courses have been running very successfully for the past 12 years. Much feedback has emphasised that they are of a very high standard.

The music and art programs are essential educational components for the whole community and have a significant positive impact on the local economy. Denmark and the Great Southern draw tourists from all over Australia and the world, a large facet of this attraction is the rich and unique concentration of arts and music. These tourists expect to see musicians at the wineries and enjoy artwork at the many galleries of the Great Southern Region.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to recommend to the Government that funding is kept in the GSIT music and art programs, and that the courses be retained in the current format. Please acknowledge the intrinsic values of these music and arts courses and their effects and outcomes on our small but important regional community. And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 5357.]