



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document provides important information for young musicians aged 12–18 and their parents or guardians about participating in the CREATE. MAKE. RELEASE. program delivered by Gold Coast Music Network.

1. Eligibility and Applications

Who can apply?

Young musicians aged 12–18 who live in the greater Gold Coast region and are creating original music.

Can I apply as a band or solo artist?

Applications are welcome from solo artists and small groups. All band members must meet the age requirements (12-18 years).

Do I need to have released music before?

No. You should have an original song in development, with lyrics and melody underway.

Is there a cost to participate?

No. The program is fully subsidised for selected participants.

2. Time Commitment and Key Dates

How much time is required?

Participants must attend onboarding, mentoring sessions, recording sessions, a skill-building workshop, and the final listening party.

Key dates

- EOIs close 30 April 2026.
- Successful applicants notified 20 May 2026.
- Onboarding 24 June 2026.
- Recording May–August 2026.
- TAFE mentoring session + tour June–July 2026
- Skill session 15 October 2026.
- Listening party 29 November 2026.

What if I miss a session?

Attendance is expected. Please notify the Program Manager as early as possible if issues arise.

3. Safety and Supervision

Is the program supervised?

Yes. All sessions are supervised by experienced educators and music professionals who hold current Blue Cards.

Can parents attend?

Yes. Parents or guardians are welcome to attend recording sessions and key activities.

Is there a Child Safety Policy?

Yes. The program operates under GCMN's Child Safety Policy and procedures.

4. Payments and Costs

Do participants receive payment?

Each participant receives a \$500 stipend to support their time and contribution.

What does the stipend cover?

It can support costs such as mastering, distribution, or promotion of the song.

Are there hidden costs?

No. Studio time, mentoring, and core production costs are covered.

5. Music Ownership and Rights

Who owns the song and recording?

Participants retain full ownership of their song and master recording.

Will participants earn royalties?

Yes. Any royalties from streaming or use of the song belong to the participant.

6. Media and Promotion

Will participants be featured publicly?

Yes. Participants may be featured across social media, media outlets, and at the final listening event.

Can we opt out of media?

Yes. Media consent forms will be provided and options discussed with families.

7. Selection Process

How are participants selected?

Applications are assessed on song quality and potential, creative ambition, and diversity of voices.



8. Generative AI

Can I use AI in my songwriting?

No. Applicants must confirm they have not used generative AI to write lyrics, melody, or application responses.

9. Accessibility and Support

What if my child has additional needs?

We aim to support all participants. Parents, carers or support workers are welcome to attend.

Is the studio accessible?

The studio has minor step access. We will work with families to accommodate needs where possible.

10. After the Program

What happens at the end?

Participants will release a professionally recorded song and take part in a public listening party.

Are there future opportunities?

Participants may be connected to further GCMN youth programs and industry pathways.

