

Gyms rocked by jump in music fees

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Fitness fanatics will have to fork out more to pump iron to their favourite tracks after the music industry won a legal battle to charge more for songs played in gyms and fitness centres.

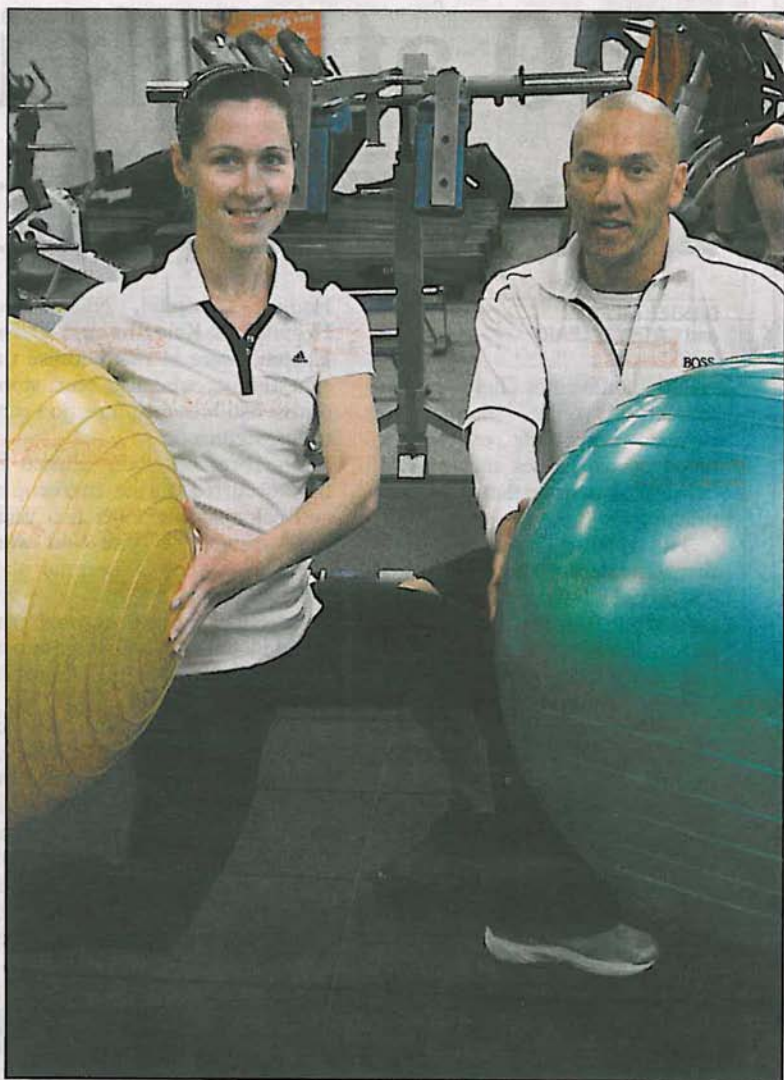
Gyms will be slugged an extra \$15 for each class or \$1 for each participant to use licensed sound recordings during fitness classes following a ruling by the Copyright Tribunal yesterday.

Fitness centres previously paid about 4¢ per person or 96.8¢ per class, with a cap of \$2654 per year but the increased fees could catapult gyms' music costs to \$23,400 per year.

Though the increased music fees could translate to increased membership fees at some gyms, others, such as the Cove Health Club in Perth and Fitness First, say they will stop playing copyrighted music.

Cove Health Club owner Roger Gott said the increase in copyright fees could potentially bankrupt smaller fitness centres.

"It was initially higher but they've met us halfway but it is still going to be very, very exorbitant because it's effectively 15 times more per class," he said. "What will end up happening is that most gyms will have no copyrighted music.



Tuned out: Emma Blockey and Roger Gott at the Cove Health Club. Picture: Ben Crabtree

to ensure that people who have made music get what they deserve but I would like to see a breakdown as to whether that money does get distributed to recording artists."

executive Stephen Peach said the ruling, which was made after a five-week hearing, represented an important improvement for artists and labels whose music was widely