

My name is Andrew Townsend, residing at

As a practicing full time professional artist, educator and concerned taxpayer, I am alarmed at Minister Brandis' move to reduce the Australia Council's budget. Arms length, peer assessed funding IS the most appropriate way for our government to provide grants to Australia's artists. With an established practice attributable to hard work over many years but also to assistance received at critical junctures from funding bodies (1997 AUST. COUNCIL C.E.A.D. award, 2000 AUST.COUNCIL C.C.D.F. award and a 2001 ARTSACT grant for catalogue publication). I am aware that the senator is looking for ways to reform and make budget savings....but wary of decisions that will deny support for independent artists and hamstringing the growth of a sector that is completely vital to the cultural prosperity of our people.

Andrew Townsend