

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: The impact of the 2014 and 2015 Commonwealth Budget decisions of the Arts with a focus on the impact on the young and emerging arts sector.

My name is Liesel Zink and I am a 27yr old Brisbane based independent choreographer who uses my practice to address social issues in creatively interesting ways. I have created works for Expressions Dance QLD, LINK Dance Company WA, Tasdance Education Program TAS and created two new Dance Theatre in works for Artslink QLD Schools Touring in 2014 and 2015 ('Shift' & 'No Way'). Independently I have created works for Metro Arts, Brisbane Festival, Junction Arts Festival and Next Wave Festival. I have been an associate artist of La Boite Theatre Company, Expressions Dance Company, and on the Advising Panel for Backbone Youth Arts.

I am deeply concerned about Senator Brandis's decision to strip money away from the Australian Council of the Arts to put into his own ministries 'Excellence' fund particularly considering the lack of consultation he has had with the Australian Arts community. The Australian Council of the Arts has been operating for 40 years and has developed an effective system for delivering funding (via peer assessing) that ensures it is nurturing and supporting the entire ecology of the arts from emerging artists through to major performing arts companies. Senator Brandis is proposing to pull money from an already effective and longstanding organisation to create a new stream of funding which is incredibly vague, doubles up on funding already provided by the Australian Council of the Arts and ignores the importance of the emerging arts and independent sector as well as small to medium organizations.

As an emerging artist I was able to benefit from Australia Council of the Arts funding initiatives including Artstart and the JUMP Mentoring program and I received opportunities from small to medium arts organization who nurtured my creative development. These initiatives and organisations played an integral role in enabling me establish my growing career and are vital in the creation and development of our future artistic leaders. They gave me the support I required to sustain my own independent career and in turn be able to employ and support other artists beneath me. They gave me a platform in which to further apply for more competitive grants, development and presentation opportunities which enabled me stand on my own feet and forge a career as a new member of the Australian arts industry.

I am deeply concerned that Senator Brandis's decision to take money away from the Australia Council of the Arts will have grave consequences on the emerging and early career arts sector which will in turn impact the future of the arts in Australia. His cuts will have a devastating impact on the many small to medium arts organisations that play an integral role in creating work and development opportunities for artists as well as nurturing and developing the future artistic leaders of this country.

I am offended that Senator Brandis only informed the Australia Council of the Arts about

his decision 90minutes prior to the announcement. His lack of appropriate consultation with the arts community prior to and post his decision shows a complete lack of regard and respect for the Australian arts community.

I ask that his decision be reversed and that The Australia Council of the Arts receives more funding to be able to more appropriately support the entire ecology of the Australian Arts Industry.

Liesel Zink.

www.lieselzink.com