

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

**RE: Impact of the 2014 and 2015 Commonwealth Budget decisions on the Arts**

Brian Lucas, aged 50yrs,

As a professional artist who has worked in the Australian Arts sector for over thirty years, I entreat you to reconsider your disastrous and badly thought-through changes to Arts funding in this country. As a performer, performance-maker, writer, mentor, educator and Arts advocate, I am keenly aware of how these changes are set to negatively alter and harm the cultural fabric of our nation. As an artist who works in and across many contexts within the Arts sector (including the independent sector, major companies, the commercial sector and tertiary training institutions) I am keenly aware of the delicate connectivity of all of these areas. I have managed to develop and sustain a highly regarded practice and profile, depending on the availability of both publicly and privately funded opportunities in all of these parts of the sector, all conducted in tandem with projects that are personally generated. The Abbott Government risks causing irreparable and substantial damage, not only to the fragile ecology of the Arts sector, but also to the broader cultural and social landscape of our country. I would presume that the Abbott Government would not want it's legacy to be that it is remembered as the government that substantially diminished and undermined the future of the Arts in Australia.

