

Dear Senators,

I'm delighted to make a submission to your inquiry into the arts.

I am astonished and disappointed at Senator Brandis' recent decision to take \$100 million funding from the Australia Council, for distribution in an unknown way to unknown artists.

The Australia Council's focus is on Australian art and culture, on vibrancy and on innovation. Their funding model achieves this very well. Through its funding support, the Australia Council strengthens Australia's art, culture and international reputation. The new work that it funds is not just vibrant and innovative art, it's also Research and Development. It builds a cultural future for our country.

The alternative proposed by Senator Brandis will achieve none of these things. Senator Brandis has set our country on a path into the past. Australia should be more than a dusty cultural museum full of dead art.

Please restore the funding to the Australia Council.

With thanks and best wishes from Tim White