

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division: Office for the Arts

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Topic: JobKeeper and JobSeeker Arrangements

Question Type: Written (26/06/2020)

Senator Gallagher asked:

1. In relation to the Minister's statement in an op-ed on 23 April 2020 that the Government's JobKeeper and JobSeeker arrangements "will end up being worth between \$4bn and \$10bn of support to the creative workforce, making it the single biggest government investment to support our arts and creative sector that we have ever seen"
 - a. Was this statement made based on advice provided by the Department? If so, on what date was that advice provided?
 - b. Does the Minister stand by this estimate of the aggregate value of JobKeeper payments and the Coronavirus supplement to the creative workforce based on the latest available information?
 - c. Has the Minister received any feedback from stakeholders that this figure may be inaccurate? If so, what steps did the Minister take to respond to this feedback?

Answer:

- a. Yes. The Department provided advice to the Minister to support his op-ed on 16 April 2020.
- b. Yes.
- c. Yes. There have been some requests for information on the basis of the estimate. Material will be released in due course.