

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong concerns about, and objections to, the impending changes to the structure of Commonwealth Arts funding proposed by Senator Brandis.

As the recipient of an Australia Council grant to the Cite des Art Studio in 1992 I am shocked that this opportunity may be sold off to the highest bidder. Is it not bad enough that Australian Artists have to overcome the 'tyranny of distance' by going it alone?

At 50 and the mother of two sons I am still struggling to emerge as a practicing Visual Artist. I have only just managed to put on my first solo show at Art Space on The Concourse Chatswood. To do this I had to team up with a charity: 'Transplant Australia' in order to cover the rental and promotional message of the show. Even after doing this, the Australian public don't seem to be able to comprehend the idea of buying something and contributing to a tax deductible registered charity. So I am most likely looking forward to covering the cost myself. Does this make me a fool? Have I failed to do my market research? If so why is everybody so penny-pinchingly poor that they can no longer afford to think of the ill who don't even have the full complement of bodily organs? I feel the winter chill and have only the fire of my anger to keep me warm.

I tried several times to get support for this exhibition: 'My Kidney and other Animals', a topical and timely show, from NAVA but found that their lead time from needing a consent letter about getting a gallery space and processing the online forms completely unusable. I missed the due date thrice and the staff were unco-operative about adapting to the new opportunities that were arising for me.

I fear that by re-directing funds into more of this bureaucratic bungling artists like me who are already struggling to keep the roofs over their heads and feed their families will be even further disadvantaged.

I am white and from a privileged background – I can't imagine what impact this re-allocation of funds will have on the Aboriginal community.

Please reconsider these 'reforms' and don't let them pass.

Yours Sincerely,

Barbara Wulff