

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee – Inquiry into the National Cultural Policy Creative Australia additional information in response to a question from Senator Davey taken on notice 16 April 2024

Senator DAVEY: I was going to come to you as well, Mr Collette, because you've merged with CPA, so I want to understand how many people you absorbed through that and whether you've also then had an increase in staffing numbers. So I'll take it from both of you.

Mr Collette : Should I address that now? Is that okay?

Senator DAVEY: Yes, sure.

Mr Collette : Yes, the merger with CPA and the Australia Council for the Arts is now complete. I want to say there were 18 full-time positions that came across. I will have to double-check that. It won't be—I'm talking 16 to 18. I must say, that seems to have happened very harmoniously, which is a good thing. We're all getting on with our work. That will take us, this year, to an average staff level of 143, so literally up by that other number from where we were. The budget by 2025-26 takes us to 161 with the standing up of Music Australia. In Creative Workplaces, works of scale has two positions budgeted against it. There's First Nations.

So, yes, we are growing. It's wonderful to be in the position where we can bring in resources to do all these terrific additional things, and we're keeping a very, very tight grip on the number of people we use to do it. So we're going from 143 to 161 by financial year 2025-26.

Senator DAVEY: So that 143 was the old Australia council plus the old CPA?

Mr Collette : CPA—exactly.

Senator DAVEY: Yes. That's what that is. Percentage wise—do I need to do my own sums on what that percentage growth is? Probably.

Mr Collette : We can supply that information. The reason I'm not jumping in is I don't want to give you approximate figures. It's normally—you know Mr Blackwell well, who's our executive director of corporate resources—

Senator DAVEY: Yes.

Mr Collette : He'd be able to answer that in a heartbeat, so we will get that information to you.

1. How many people absorbed from CPA into Creative Australia?

18 ASL positions transferred from Creative Partnerships Australia to Creative Australia (formerly the Australia Council) from 1 July 2023.

2. Have you had increase in staffing numbers?

The PBS provides the following:

Financial Year	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	FY2026-27
PBS ASL	108	143	149	157	161
Year on year growth		32%	4%	5%	3%

Growth from FY2022-23 to FY2026-27					49%
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3. That 143 staffing number was the old Australia Council plus the old CPA?

Creative Australia has a budgeted average staffing level (ASL) for FY2023-24 of 143 compared with 108 ASL for FY2022-23.

The increase of 35 ASL comprises:

- 18 budgeted ASL for former Creative Partnerships Australia staff (no net increase in the general government sector) and
- 17 additional ASL for the new activities Creative Australia will undertake as part of the first-year implementation of *Revive* components, notably Music Australia and Creative Workplaces.

4. What percentage growth in staffing numbers there would be?

See response above at question 2.