

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings October 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 68**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 91, 09/02/2016**

**Topic: Decision minute**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

**Senator BILYK:** Did you receive any written briefs about the \$8 million?

**Senator Fifield:** My discussions with the department and with the Australia Council were significant. Yes, obviously, there would have been a range of different briefing materials provided to me, but what I find the most helpful and determinative are the actual discussions that I have with people like Mr Grybowski and Ms Bassar, as well as those in the sector.

**Senator BILYK:** How was the decision recorded?

**Senator Fifield:** There would have been a decision minute prepared for me which I would have signed to give effect to that which I had determined.

**Senator BILYK:** Are we able to see that document, Minister?

**Senator Fifield:** We will take that on notice. In the ordinary course of events, I do not think we necessarily provide advice to government to the committee, but I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. Through a written brief.
3. The decision to repurpose \$8 million was made following consultation with the Australia Council. This funding will support the Australia Council's core grant rounds, strategic projects and small to medium organisations. It is not normal process for the Government to provide copies of deliberative material to committees.