

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 277

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 03/04/2017

Topic: Parameter changes and outside consultants

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

1. On 28 February 2017 in response to a question from Senator Bilyk about funding cuts due to parameter changes affecting a range of agencies – Australia Council, National Film and Sound Archive, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Museum of Australia, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Old Parliament House – the Department took the question on notice and undertook to get some information from the Treasury about how these parameter changes are determined and what is in scope. Is that information available?
2. On 28 February 2017 in response to a question from Senator Bilyk, the Department also took on notice whether there was any consultation with those affected agencies (Australia Council, National Film and Sound Archive, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Museum of Australia, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Old Parliament House) on what it means for them to implement the cuts resulting from these parameter changes and the job losses across the agencies from that implementation? Is that information available?
3. How many consultants were engaged across the agencies in the arts area of the portfolio over the year ended 30 June 2016 and for the period from 1 July 2017 to date? What is the total cost to each organisation of those consultants?
4. Which agencies in the arts area of the portfolio have or are planning to retain outside consultants to assist them in managing the funding cuts resulting from the announced parameter changes and increased efficiency dividends?
 - a. What is the total cost to each organisation of those consultants?
 - b. How many of these consultants are ex-staff members of Government or the relevant institutions with expertise in matters affecting the relevant institutions?

Answer:

1. Please see the reply to question on notice number 5.
2. Please see the reply to question on notice number 5.
3. Information on the value of consultancies over the reportable limit is available on the AusTender website <tenders.gov.au>. To reply fully to the remainder of this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
4. With the exception of the Australian National Maritime Museum none of the arts portfolio agencies has engaged consultants for this purpose.

Australian National Maritime Museum

- a) \$175,000.
- b) One.