

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 51

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 09/03/2017

Topic: NPEA vs Catalyst

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

1. What are the main differences between George Brandis' National Program for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA) and the current Minister's 'Catalyst' program?
2. Are they funded to an equal amount? If they are funded to a different amount, what has happened to the missing money?

Answer:

1. Catalyst—*Australian Arts and Culture Fund* was launched on 20 November 2015. It was designed to fund innovative projects from arts and cultural organisations that would not generally have been eligible for funding from other Australian Government arts and cultural programs. It supported access to high quality arts experiences in regional communities and international activities that achieved cultural diplomacy objectives. The National Program for Excellence in the Arts was a measure in the 2015-16 Budget measure which became the Catalyst—*Australian Arts and Culture Fund*.
2. The Government has announced the return of the majority of the Catalyst—*Australian Arts and Culture Fund* to the Australia Council. Details are contained in the media release from the Minister for the Arts on 18 March 2017.