

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: 52

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 09/03/2017

Topic: National Association for the Visual Artists (NAVA)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

1. The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) has released a report today called *‘The economics of Australia’s small-to-medium visual arts sector’*. This report highlights how there was a 55% decline in federal funding for the arts between 2008 and 2013 in per capita terms, adjusting for inflation. Does that reflect your understanding of the current funding situation?
2. NAVA’s figures show that per capita arts funding from the Federal Government has declined significantly over the five-year period, from \$20.20 per Australian per year in 2008 to \$9.06 in 2013, adjusting for inflation. How are Australian arts organisations expected to survive in these conditions?
3. What do you see as the impact of that level of funding decline on the small to medium visual arts sector?
4. The NAVA report recognised that the increased financial pressure on the small to medium visual arts sector has resulted in a declining number of full time arts professionals and the casualisation of the sector’s workforce.
 - (a) Do you agree that there is a trend towards casualisation in Australia’s art sector?
 - (b) Do you agree that that trend is a direct result of Federal funding cuts?

Answer:

1. Australian Government funding for the arts portfolio in 2007-08 was \$649.89 million and in 2013-14 was \$704.22 million. (Source: 2007-08 and 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statements, Additional Estimates Statements and Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements).
2. Arts portfolio funding increased over the period.
3. Please see answer above.
4. (a) The Government is not aware of any data regarding casualisation across the arts sector workforce. The most relevant and recent data on artist incomes across all artforms in Australia is the 2010 Throsby report, *Do you really expect to get Paid? – An economic study of professional artists in Australia*, which does not specifically raise the issue of casualisation of the arts sector workforce.
 - (b) No.