Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 48

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 07/06/2017

Topic: 457 Visas

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye asked:

- 1. When did the Department first become aware of the Government's plans to reform the 457 visa framework?
- 2. When did the Department first become aware that occupations in the arts sector were going to be removed from the list of occupations for which people could apply for under the new visa framework?
- 3. Has the Department received feedback from the arts sector since these changes were announced?
- 4. What action will the Department be taking to monitor the impact of these visa changes on the arts sector?

Answer:

- 1. 18 April 2017.
- 2. 18 April 2017.
- 3. Yes.
- 4. The Department is monitoring the implementation of the policy and its impact on the creative sector more generally through engagement with the Australian Major Performing Arts Group and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.