

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 44

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 42, 20/10/2015

Topic: Shared Services Savings

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: I might come back to some of those questions. I am trying to work out which ones I can put on notice as we go. How much money do you think is going to be saved in that regard?

Ms O'Loughlin: In regard to the shared services arrangement for the cultural institutions?

Senator BILYK: Yes.

Ms Basser: There was an amount of money, as I recall, that was in the 2014-15 budget. I think it was \$2.4 million, off the top of my head, but I will need to check that. The ongoing discussions, as Ms O'Loughlin has said, are part of the traditional arrangements and discussions between the two departments.

Senator BILYK: Was that \$2.4 million annually?

Ms Basser: No. That was—

Senator BILYK: Over the four years?

Ms O'Loughlin: We might check that for you.

Senator BILYK: If you could; thank you. Do you think it is still the case that that is how much money can be saved?

Answer:

The Portfolio Budget Statements of 2014-15 identified savings of \$2.4m over four years and it is expected these savings will continue to be met. A total of \$3.4m in savings is expected across the forward years, with \$1m injection of funds to assist with the transition, for a net saving of \$2.4m over the forward years.

Smaller Government — collection agencies — consolidation of back office functions

Expense (\$m)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Various Agencies	-	1.0	-0.2	-1.6	-1.6

The Government will achieve savings of \$2.4 million over four years from 2014-15 by consolidating the back office functions of the following Canberra-based collection agencies: National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Old Parliament House, National Film and Sound Archive, National Museum of Australia and the National Archives of Australia.

The savings from this measure will be redirected by the Government to repair the Budget and fund policy priorities.