

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Council

Question No: 55

Australia Council

Hansard Ref: Page 46, 20/10/2015

Topic: Australia Council positions

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: Can you give me a breakdown of staffing pre-budget? To make it easier, how long do you think it will take you to determine what the staffing processes will be?

Mr Grybowski: We are working through that. There are a number of factors involved. We will meet the budget EFT level and, indeed, the budget figure within this financial year.

Senator BILYK: Can you give me on notice a breakdown of how many staff are employed and at what levels currently?

Mr Grybowski: We do not have, as a government agency, fixed levels known by the Public Service. But I can give a breakdown of the general indicative levels of staff.

Answer:

Prior to the 2015-16 Budget, it was forecast that the Australia Council would have an average staffing level of 125 in 2015-16.

The Australia Council is undertaking an organisational change process to achieve the \$1 million in staff cost savings required in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statement. The Council's activities have also been significantly revised following the reduction to Council's appropriation announced in the 2015-16 Budget. This change process will ensure that the Council can effectively and efficiently deliver those revised priorities in support of Australian arts, within a constrained budget. This organisational change process is underway and expected to be finalised by 2 December 2015.

As at 19 October 2015, the Australia Council had 117 staff.

As mentioned above, the Australia Council is undertaking an organisational change process and is currently in the consultation phase with staff. The Council is not able to provide the final structure at this point in time.