

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

National Film and Sound Archive

Question No: 72

National Film and Sound Archive

Hansard Ref: Written, 30/10/2015

Topic: Further Questions: BE15/079

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. 1b. How was the decision arrived at that it was financially responsible and appropriate to use funds and resources on this event, given the recent cuts to NFSA staff and programs, and the limited broader interest to the Australian public? Was this expenditure budgeted for in the 2014-15 budget?
2. 1g. Were the current resources at the NFSA not qualified to undertake these tasks? Was this factored into the decision that holding this event was appropriate given the climate at the time at the NFSA?
3. 1h. Do these costs include staffing? Were NFSA staff assisting at FIAF events paid appropriate overtime for out of hours and off-site work?

Answer:

1. 1b. The NFSA's Strategic Plan 2015-18 outlines 'Developing Leadership in the Digital Age' as one of its five priorities, and states that one of the activities for achieving this goal will be "demonstrated sector leadership through high-level engagement in national and international forums". The NFSA is an active participant in and contributor to international archival networks as part of meeting this activity, and the decision to participate in the event was made on this basis.

Was this expenditure budgeted for in the 2014-15 budget?

Answer: Yes.

2. 1g. Were the current resources at the NFSA not qualified to undertake these tasks?

Answer: They were not qualified.

Was this factored into the decision that holding this event was appropriate given the climate at the time at the NFSA?

Answer: Yes

3. 1h. Do these costs include staffing?

Answer: No

Were NFSA staff assisting at FIAF events paid appropriate overtime for out of hours and off-site work?

Answer: All engagement of NFSA staff for the event was consistent with the NFSA's Enterprise Agreement.