

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 37

Program 2.1

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Topic: Music Funding - Sound Australia

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: Thank you. I will move on. I am sorry I will not be finished before dinner time so people will have to come back. Can you answer questions now about Sounds Australia and the Live Music Office?

Ms O'Loughlin: I can attempt to but of course my staff will have more details.

Senator BILYK: Sounds Australia does a brilliant job in promoting Australian music to the world but I understand that funding for this vital work is not guaranteed beyond 31 December 2016. Is that correct?

Ms O'Loughlin: That is correct.

Senator BILYK: So what plans are there to assist Sounds Australia to supplement the funding disparity? I understand they are losing about \$150,000 a year. Is that right?

Ms O'Loughlin: I think that is correct, but I can check.

Answer:

Sounds Australia received approximately \$600,000 per annum from the Australian Government from 2013 to 2016.

In May 2016, the Australia Council announced it would provide support for Sounds Australia totalling \$1.2 million (\$300,000 per annum) through its Four Year Funding to Organisations commencing in January 2017.

The Australia Council Four Year Funding represents a shortfall of the previous investment by the Australian Government of approximately \$300,000 per annum.

The Australian Government is committed to increasing Australia's artistic reputation internationally and recognises that Sounds Australia's work provides unique opportunities for Australian artists to develop their careers. Funding of \$1.16 million over four years was announced on 24 November 2016.