

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: 52

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 28/10/2016

Topic: Funding for Indigenous (first people's) culture and arts

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

1. What is the overall level of funding provided across all Indigenous culture and arts programs for each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 - and the projected funding for each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?
2. Provide a breakdown of the funding for individual programs for each of those years, both actual and projected, and the amounts expended and allocated to those programs?
3. What process is used to make decisions in each of the programs supporting Indigenous culture and arts?
4. How many Indigenous peers are involved in decision making?
5. Provide a list of all applications approved for funding across all Indigenous culture and arts programs for each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to date? Where is information about these approvals published?
6. In relation to each approved application in each program, provide the following information:
 - (a) How does the project meet the guidelines of the program?
 - (b) How was the application assessed?
 - (c) How was each application presented to the decision maker?
 - (d) Did the decision maker select the highest ranked projects?
 - (e) What is the breakdown of these applications across each state/territory in Australia?
 - (f) What evaluation of each application will be made when it is completed?
 - (g) How many other applications were received in the same round and what percentages were funded/rejected?
 - (h) In relation to each funding round for each Indigenous culture and arts program, how many applications were received in that round and what percentages were funded/rejected?

Answer:

1. With the introduction of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy in 2014, increased responsibility for Indigenous culture funding and policy was assumed by the Indigenous Affairs portfolio (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)). 'Culture and Capability' is one of five pillars of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy funded predominantly through PM&C. In 2015-16, \$45.89 million will be provided through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy: Culture and Capability Program. Funding for Indigenous culture programs is also provided through other portfolios.

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Funding provided through the Department of Communications and the Arts for Indigenous arts and culture programs (including language and repatriation) is provided below.

	2013-14 \$m	2014-15 \$m	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 \$m	2017-18 \$m	2018-19 \$m	2019-20 \$m
Total funding	53.949	41.879	43.587	42.281	42.946	43.627	44.166

Also within the Arts portfolio are Indigenous arts and culture programs delivered through portfolio agencies, as determined by those agencies each year, for example:

Responsible agency	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Australia Council	\$9.4 million	\$10.7 million	\$9.9 million
Screen Australia	\$5.12 million	\$3.00 million	\$6.05 million

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		\$ million						
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support*	Budgeted	11.133	10.587	21.424	19.455	19.787	20.120	20.402
	Actual	11.133	10.587	21.424	-	-	-	-
Indigenous Culture Support*	Budgeted	7.653	4.732	-	-	-	-	-
	Actual	7.653	4.732	-	-	-	-	-
Indigenous Employment Initiative**/**	Budgeted	21.418	15.088	-	-	-	-	-
	Actual	21.394	15.087	-	-	-	-	-
Indigenous Languages Support*	Budgeted	13.141	10.856	-	-	-	-	-
	Actual	13.120	10.856	-	-	-	-	-
Indigenous Languages and Arts*	Budgeted	-	-	21.530	22.185	22.506	22.843	23.090
	Actual	-	-	21.520	-	-	-	-
Indigenous Repatriation***	Budgeted	0.604	0.616	0.633	0.641	0.653	0.664	0.674
	Actual	0.604	0.616	0.633	-	-	-	-

*In 2014-15 the Indigenous arts, culture and languages programs were streamlined to reflect Indigenous Advancement Strategy portfolio responsibilities, improve alignment with the Government's Indigenous affairs priorities and reduce red tape.

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**In 2013-14, the Indigenous Broadcasting Program transferred from the Arts portfolio to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Part of the funding allocated to this program was through the Indigenous Employment Initiative.

***The Indigenous Repatriation Program is not a competitive funding program. Funds are provided for domestic and international repatriation activities. Questions five and six are 'not applicable' for the Indigenous Repatriation Program.

3. Indigenous Languages and Arts program guidelines are available on the Department's website at www.arts.gov.au/documents/indigenous-languages-and-arts-program-guidelines

Indigenous Visual Art Industry Support program guidelines are available on the Department's website at www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-visual-arts-industry-support-program.

Guidelines for the Indigenous Repatriation Program are on the Department's website at www.arts.gov.au/documents/australian-government-policy-indigenous-repatriation.

4. The Advisory Committee for Indigenous Repatriation (ACIR) provides strategic advice to the Australian Government about issues directly affecting the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains such as, strategic directions for the Indigenous Repatriation Program, feedback and advice on general issues that emerge and issues relating to cultural protocols.

Advice on community needs and information contributing to gap analyses are also provided by peak Indigenous bodies, such as First Languages Australia, and community based stakeholders, such the network of arts and languages centres across Australia.

Panels and committees providing advice and recommendations relating to broader programs also reflect Indigenous expertise and community views. For example, the National Cultural Heritage Committee defers to expert examiners with Indigenous expertise to derive its recommendations to the decision-maker. Similarly, the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund Creative Advisory Panel includes Indigenous membership and reflects Indigenous perspectives in making recommendations to the decision-maker.

In addition, internal program processes involve Indigenous staff. For instance, almost all internal assessors of applications in all Indigenous Languages and Arts program rounds have been Indigenous staff.

5. Projects funded under all programs in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are available on the Department's website at www.communications.gov.au/who-we-are/department/funding-reporting. Funding agreements for applications funded through the 2016-17 ILA program are being executed and will be listed on the grants register when finalised.

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6. To provide information on all funding applications across all programs from 2014-2016 would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. The following answers are provided at a general program level for the current funding programs only.

Indigenous Languages and Arts

State	2015-16	2016-17
National projects	3	0
ACT	0	0
NSW	21	21
Qld	22	15
Vic	13	9
SA	8	9
WA	4	13
TAS	1	1
NT	27	20
Total number of projects	99	88

Indigenous Visual Art Industry Support

State	2015-16	2016-17
National projects	2	2
ACT	1	1
NSW	4	4
Qld	21	18
Vic	3	3
SA	9	9
WA	22	18
TAS	0	0
NT	34	34
Total number of projects	96	89

Indigenous Languages and Arts

	Applications received	Activities funded	Percentage funded	Percentage not funded
2015-16	247	99	40%	60%
2016-17	177	88	49.7%	50.3%