

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Council

Question No: 57

Australia Council

Hansard Ref: Written, 03/11/2016

Topic: Funding for the Arts

Senator Griff, Stirling asked:

In May of this year, more than one third of the 147 organisations which previously received multi-year funding, were informed that their applications for further funding had been rejected by the Australia Council. This is going to have a huge impact on South Australian companies who are facing further funding cuts at a state level. What was the reasoning behind the significant cuts, and what was the criteria on which the decision was made in selecting the organisations to receive funding?

Answer

The introduction of the Council's new multi-year funding program, the Four Year Funding for Organisations program, is the final pillar of the Council's new integrated funding model which launched in January 2015.

Responding to sector consultation the program promotes renewal, innovation and greater access to new companies. 30% of the successful organisations are not currently receiving multi-year funding and the investment level in First Nations organisations has doubled. The Four Year Funding program will enable longer term planning, more ambitious programming and collaborations, and new opportunities for local and international audiences to engage with Australian work.

Following the budget measures announced in May 2015, Council reduced its planned investment in the multi-year funding program for organisations.

Applications for the Four Year Funding for Organisations program were assessed through a rigorous and highly competitive process, with expert peers sitting on practice specific assessment panels. The core selection criteria which were taken into account were provided on the Australia Council website.

Broadly, the criteria are as follows:

- . Artistic merit or Quality of services to the arts
- . Organisational capacity
- . Contribution to the Strategic Goals of the Australia Council