

**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: 63**

**Australia Council**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 28/10/2016**

**Topic: Research**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

1. What funds are provided to or allocated by the Australia Council in the current year and over the forward estimates for research?
2. Has there been any change to the funding provided to the Australia Council for research or allocated by the Australia Council for research? If so, why have those changes been made and what amount of funding is involved? If there have been reductions in funding provided/allocated, what research will not be conducted as a result of these cuts and what job losses have resulted from those cuts?
3. The Australia Council recently released research – “*Showcasing Creativity: Programming and Presenting First Nations Performing Arts*” – that encourages the performing arts sector to close the gap between interest and attendance; connecting more Australians to First Nations performing arts experiences and increasing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. What steps are being taken to address the outcomes of that research?

**Answer**

1. In 2016-17 the budget allocation for research is \$547,500. Proposed expenditure for future years remains to be determined.
2. No.
3. The Australia Council is committed to long-term support for First Nations arts, as one of the four goals of our strategic plan for a Culturally Ambitious Nation. Informed by Council’s research “*Showcasing Creativity: Programming and Presenting First Nations Performing Arts*” Council undertakes a broad range of activity to support First Nations arts, including:
  - **Investment:** Council’s investment in organisations led by First Nations people doubled through the Four Year Funding Program with 13% of the 128 organisations identifying as being led by First Nations people.
    - During 2015-16, Council supported 163 projects delivered by First Nations people and organisations, with more than three quarters involving the creation of new work.
    - As well as the Chosen and Signature Works programs which support the intergenerational transfer of artistic and cultural knowledge.
  - **Capacity building:** Council is developing and implementing an evidence-based audience and market development strategy for First Nations work, and supporting capacity development for both First Nations and mainstream organisations and artists.

- This includes work that we have been doing to support increased First Nations representation at Showcases such as APAM and Big Sound; work to increase the capacity of First Nations artists to be market ready and seize opportunities; and upcoming work to support marketing skills development for First Nations arts.
- **Strategic development:** Council supported mentoring and leadership programs for First Nations artists, and developed a new Tri-Nations Exchange program which brought together First Nations artists and arts workers from New Zealand, Canada and Australia.