

**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: 65**

**Australia Council**

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

**Topic: Youth Focused Arts Funding**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

1. What is the number of youth-focused arts companies that are currently funded by the Australia Council?
2. What changes have been made in the funding of youth-focused arts companies since the funding cuts first announced in 2014?
3. What is the reason for that change?
4. What is the number of youth-focused arts companies that were funded by the Australia Council prior to the funding cuts in 2014-15?
5. What analysis been done on the long term effects of the closure of youth-focused arts companies on the overall Australian arts sector?

**Answer**

1. The Australia Council currently funds thirteen organisations under the Key Organisations program with 'youth' as their primary demographic. Twelve organisations with 'youth' as their primary demographic were successful under the Four Year Funding program, and will receive operational funding from 2017-2020. Additionally, Council supports a range of organisations and artists that create work by, with and for young people through
  - Project funding through our core grants program
  - Support for touring in regional Australia through Playing Australia and the Contemporary Music Touring Program
  - Multi-year funding to the Major Performing Arts Companies, supporting targeted education programs and performances
  - Supporting attendance at international arts markets
  - Capacity building programs to support emerging artists and leaders.
2. Reductions to our grants and initiatives have resulted in reduced funding for youth arts organisations. A number of programs that provided investments in youth arts and early career artists (ArtStart, Artist in Residence, Creative Communities Partnership Initiative) were also discontinued.

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3. A reduction in resources led to the cancellation of two grant rounds in 2015-16.
4. In 2013-14 the Australia Council funded fourteen organisations under the Key Organisations program with 'youth' as their primary demographic
5. No specific analysis has been undertaken.