

**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: 66**

**Australia Council**

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

**Topic: Questions - Funded Organisations**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

What organisations funded by the Australia Council have diversity and/or disability action plans in place and, for those that don't, what steps are being taken to put these plans in place?

**Answer**

The Australia Council does not require organisations to report on whether they have diversity or disability action plans in place and does not currently collect this data. Accordingly, providing the information sought in this question would require Council to follow up with the many hundreds of organisations that receive Council funding, which would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

However, the Australia Council notes that it prioritises diversity as a critical element of good governance across the arts sector. Council's guide to *'Essential Governance Practices for Arts Organisations'* highlights the importance Council attaches to diversity in the arts, and recommends that the leaders of arts organisations foster an organisational culture that embraces diversity, including through ensuring that that organisation has a diversity policy that reflects the communities it engages with and establishing measurable objectives for achieving diversity.