

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Acquisition of Artwork to Commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC

Question: 265

Written: Senator Wong

#### Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

With reference to the letter from the Presiding Officers entitled ‘Acquisition of Artwork to Commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC’, dated 25 November 2015, in which the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives indicate that

“\$200,000 has been allocated for the purchase of contemporary artworks for the Parliament House Art Collection that pay tribute to the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces and their sacrifice”:

1. How much has been allocated for the purchase of artworks for the Parliament House Art Collection in 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016?
2. Will this \$200,000 come out of the existing funding, or is it a new allocation?
3. When was the decision made to allocate funding?
4. Who made the decision to allocate funding?
5. Can the details of all acquisitions to date, including the cost of acquisition, be provided please?
6. How were these pieces chosen?

Noting the comments in the letter that state

“Many of you will have talented artists within your electorate who are producing significant works and exhibitions to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC. We invite you to send us the details of any artworks that may be suitable for acquisition to commemorate the centenary”:

7. Who made the decision to ask Senators and Members to nominate artworks suitable for acquisition?
8. How will the nominated artwork be assessed to ensure appropriate procurement standards are in place?
9. On what previous occasions have Senators and Members been invited to nominate artworks for acquisition for the Parliament House Art Collection?

#### Answer

1. 2013–14: \$250,000 was allocated for the purchase of artworks and \$237,590 was expended.  
2014–15: \$265,000 was allocated for the purchase of artworks and \$127,548 was expended. The remaining funds were carried over into the 2015/2016 allocation.  
2015–16: \$290,000 was allocated for the purchase of artworks in the current financial year.
2. The allocation of \$200,000 is in addition to existing funding and is to be expended over four financial years (2014–15 to 2017–18).
3. The decision to allocate funding was made on 2 December 2014.
4. The Presiding Officers.
5. Works acquired by the Art Advisory Committee at their meetings in March and October 2015:
  - (i) Nick Howson, *First Landing*, 2008, painting, \$8,864
  - (ii) Indigenous Textiles & Glass Artists Group, *Slouch Hat*, 2015, glass mixed media work, \$6,000
  - (iii) Jenni Kemarre Martiniello, *First Aid Box*, 2015, glass mixed media work, \$11,819

- (iv) Alan Cruickshank, *WWI South Australian Memorials series, 1983-1986*, series of 61 photographic prints, \$20,000

Acquisitions approved by the Art Advisory Committee at their meeting on 29 February 2016 for which procurement is still in progress:

- (i) Luke Sciberras, *Up Shit Creek, (Shrapnel Gully)*, 2014, painting, \$25,455
- (ii) Robert Hannaford, *Simpson & Donkey*, 2015, bronze, \$7,275
- (iii) Robert Hannaford, *My Gallipoli*, 2015, 2 watercolours, \$7,275
- (iv) Catherine O'Donnell, *Time for Rounds*, 2015, charcoal on paper, \$4,500
- (v) Michael Keighery, *Shell Casings*, 2015, 5 ceramics, \$2,110
- (vi) Brian Robinson, *And they flew from the airfield at Ngurupai (I&II)*, 2011, 2 linocut prints, \$1,000

- 6 Prior to the meeting of the Art Advisory Committee in February 2016, all acquisitions proposed for this funding were sourced by DPS Art Collection staff and recommended to the Art Advisory Committee by the Acting Director, DPS Art Collection & Exhibitions.

Following the letter distributed by the Presiding Officers which resulted in the receipt of additional offers of artwork, all potential acquisitions recommended by parliamentarians were collated by DPS Art Collection staff and assessed against the Parliament House Acquisition Policy for their appropriateness.

All offers of artwork through parliamentarians were then amalgamated with artworks identified for acquisition by DPS Art Collection staff and sent to the senior curatorial staff of the Art Section of the Australian War Memorial for independent assessment in order to ensure their suitability, and the accuracy of their subject matter, prior to DPS making recommendations to the Committee about acquisitions. Acquisition proposals to be considered by the Art Advisory Committee were then prepared for only those artworks that had met or exceeded the criteria set by the Parliament House Art Collection and that set by the Australian War Memorial.

- 7 At the Art Advisory Committee meeting on 12 October 2015, the Deputy Speaker suggested that all Senators and Members be consulted so that they might advise the Committee about potential artworks that might be considered for acquisition under this funding. The Committee agreed that the Presiding Officers would send correspondence to all parliamentarians calling for offers of artworks providing they met the criteria in the Acquisition Policy.

- 8 All artworks offered via parliamentarians and any artworks identified by DPS staff for acquisition under this funding allocation are collated and sent to the senior curatorial staff of the Art Section of the Australian War Memorial for independent assessment in order to ensure their suitability (and the accuracy of their subject matter) prior to DPS making recommendations to the Committee about acquisitions. Acquisition proposals are only prepared for those artworks that meet the criteria set by both the Parliament House Art Collection and the Australian War Memorial. Australian War Memorial staff are not given any information regarding who has proposed an artwork for acquisition.

All acquisitions must then be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Art Advisory Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, or if an urgent decision is required, votes may be undertaken via email correspondence.

- 9 DPS is not aware of any other occasion where Senators and Members have been invited to nominate artworks for acquisition for the Parliament House Art Collection.