

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 1

Program 2.1

Question No. 113

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

What is the situation regarding funding of the Merrepen Arts Centre in the NT? Funding was withdrawn, and has now been restored, but only to the end of this financial year. Who made those decisions, and why? Is it correct that two of the Northern Territory's federal representatives, Senator Nova Peris and the Member for Solomon Natasha Griggs, wore outfits made from Merrepen fabrics to the opening of parliament?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Advice from the Australia Council

Please refer to the response to question 3.

Advice from the Ministry for the Arts

- 1) Merrepen Arts Centre received annual funding of \$105,000 for 2013-14 through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program.
- 2) Merrepen Art Centre's 2013-14 funding was not finalised prior to the Government implementing its assessment of all discretionary grants spending. Subsequently, at the agreement of the Finance Minister, funding for 2013-14 was offered and accepted.
- 3) It is correct that Senator Peris and the Member for Solomon wore outfits made from Merrepen fabrics at the opening of the 44th Parliament of Australia.