

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. AE15/141**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:**

1. What progress has been made on implementation of the Strategic Plan?
2. Part of the Strategic Plan was "As part of a new international arts strategy the Council will establish a world-wide network of arts managers and partners that can be accessed by Australian artists and organisations." Who are these arts managers and partners, and where are they? Are these the "international development managers" referred to in an answer to QoNs.
3. The Strategic Plan says that you will be "developing and delivering an international development strategy". When will that be published?

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

1. The Australia Council Strategic Plan (2014 to 2019) was announced on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to date is as follows:
  - In January 2015 the Australia Council's new grants program commenced, making it simpler and easier for artists and arts organisations to apply for funding, with streamlined criteria and eligibility requirements. The new grants program is a key deliverable under Goal Two of the Strategic Plan 'Australia is known for its great art and artists'. The closing date for applications to the first round was 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. More than 2,500 applications were received from arts organisations, individuals and groups.
  - The grants program includes the Australia Council's new Six Year funding for Organisations Program, developed to ensure consistency of funding arrangements across the small-to-medium sector. 418 organisations submitted Expressions of Interest for six year funding by the 3<sup>rd</sup> March closing date.
2. In 2014, Ms Sophie Travers was appointed as the Australia Council's international development manager for Western Europe. Ms Travers is based in Australia. The arts managers and partners are the international development managers referred to in the Australia Council's response to SBE14/188.
3. The International Arts Strategy is currently being developed, and publication is planned for June 2015.