

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

Group: 1

Program: 2.1

Question: BE14/070

Senator Lisa Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Reduced funding (Budget Paper no 2 p 55)

1. Which programs will be curtailed or discontinued because of these cuts?
2. What consultation has taken place with the arts sector about possible cuts to programs? What consultation is planned?
3. How many public servants will be retrenched because of these cuts?
4. What will be the cost of these retrenchments?
5. How many contract positions will be abolished?

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

1. The Australia Council is considering the most appropriate ways to apply the budget adjustment, with a focus on minimising the impact across the sector. The details will be determined as part of the implementation of the new grants model in January 2015.
2. The Australia Council will undertake targeted engagement with the sector as part of the implementation plan for the new grants model.
3. No Australia Council employees will be retrenched. The budgeted staff numbers for 2014-15 are 127, against 128 in 2013-14.
4. See response to question 3.
5. See response to question 3.