

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. BE15/083

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:

1. What was the number of full time equivalent positions in Screen Australia on
 - a. 7 September 2013
 - b. 30 June 2014
 - c. 30 June 2015
2. The government has announced a further cut of \$3.6m over 4 years to Screen Australia's Budget, on top of some \$25m last year, to achieve "efficiencies". What will those efficiencies be?
3. In a media release following this year's budget, the Screen Producers Association stated:

"Our concerns about disproportionate cuts to Screen Australia 12 months ago are amplified following this year's Budget announcement. To compound \$38m in cuts with a further \$3.6m over the coming four years will seriously impact the screen industry. This further cut of almost \$1 million per year is both significant and major."

A Fairfax newspaper report on 13 May this year stated that the cuts imposed on Screen Australia in both last years and this year's budget mean:

"the country's peak film funding organisation will have had its budget trimmed by more than 16 per cent in the past year, with its federal government allocation dropping from \$100.8 million in 2013-14 to a projected \$84.1 million in 2017-18."

In relation to Screen Australia, how do these assessments accord with Senator Brandis's statement in the Senate on 14 May 2015 that "there has been no reduction in arts funding of any substance this year"?

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

1.
 - a. 7 September 2013: 107.3
 - b. 30 June 2014: 112.2
 - c. 30 June 2015: 100 (projected)
2. The 2015/16 budget savings measures will reduce Screen Australia's production investment programs by \$910,000 per year. It is not possible to specify precisely which productions categories will be affected, because this will depend on merit assessment.
3. The Screen Australia budget savings measures are a matter of public record. Screen Australia has no comment to make in relation to statements that may have been made by Senator Brandis.