

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

Group: 2

Program: Other agency

Question No. SBE14/010

Senator Ian MacDonald asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

CHAIR: Can you tell me what 'peers' are? I am sorry, but I do not understand the term.

Mr Grybowski: The peers are the artistic experts. They are people who are current practitioners, who are musicians—

CHAIR: Who appoints them?

Mr Grybowski: Those peers are appointed by the board of the Australia Council.

CHAIR: Are they always the same, or do they change every year?

Mr Grybowski: One of the criticisms of the previous board structure under our old governance structure is that there was too much responsibility in a few and there was not diversity or representation geographically from within those boards. The new way that we construct the panels assessing these applications is to ensure that, when there are Queensland based applications, there are Queensland based peers on that panel making the assessment, so that there is a familiarity and an understanding of the context in which those arts organisations are actually working.

CHAIR: So these peers are from what locality geographically?

Mr Grybowski: I do not have a list of them in front of me, but two of them were from Queensland.

CHAIR: Two out of how many?

Mr Grybowski: Two out of six.

CHAIR: Two out of six—dealing with just Queensland grants, or was this Australia wide?

Mr Grybowski: The applications were received nationally.

CHAIR: Okay, so two out of the six nationally. Perhaps I can get some advice from the secretary here: could I ask for the names of those people so I can assess where they come from or what their allegiances might be.

Mr Grybowski: Sure. They are publicly available, in the interests of transparency of the process.

CHAIR: And the two Queensland ones are geographically from Brisbane, I guess.

Mr Grybowski: I do not have the names of them, but I will take that question on notice.

CHAIR: Okay. I would have hoped that you might have had all this information, in view of my public advice to you that I was going to question you about these things. Anyhow, we will take that on notice. These six people were newly appointed just for 2014, were they?

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

The names of the peers are publicly available at <http://2014.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant-decisions/reports/music/music-assessment-meeting-report-july-2014-program>. The peers are:

Danielle Bentley (QLD)

Lawrence English (QLD)

Michael Hutchings (NSW)

Alex Masso (NSW)

Callum Moncrieff (VIC)

Eliza Sarlos (NSW)