



adelaide symphony orchestra

16 June 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment,
Communication and the Arts
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Committee Secretary

At a Senate Estimates hearing held in May, 2010, it was incorrectly stated by an Australia Council for the Arts official that the only orchestra experiencing a 'negative impact' in terms of extra costs arising from divestment from the ABC (as recommended in the Strong Review into Orchestras, 2005) is the Sydney Symphony.

This is not true.

While the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra has expanded its sphere of operation in recent years, the organisation is heavily burdened by the increases in superannuation, workers' compensation and other insurance premiums that arose directly from divestment from the ABC.

The organisation is paying an average increase of \$135,000 p.a. in superannuation contributions, an extra \$60,000 p.a. in workers' compensation premiums and an average \$34,000 p.a. in general insurance costs; a total of \$229,000 increase costs arising from divestment.

As the least funded orchestra in Australia, and labouring under a constrained market place in a smaller economy like Adelaide, these funds would have much better utilised to offset costs in education activities and other free or low ticket cost community events that the orchestra seeks to present.

Additionally, the ASO might have been able to address the clearly inequitable salary gap that exists between ASO musicians and Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra musicians.

It is a concern that the reporting to the Senate Estimates hearing, which incorrectly states this case, is addressed and corrected for the public record.

Yours sincerely,

Rainer Jozeps
Chief Executive