

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australia Council

Outcome/Program: 2.1. Arts and Cultural Development

Topic: Boards, Committees and Panels

Senator: Senator Brandis

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Type of Question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. How many boards, committees and panels of The Australia Council were there; how many members did they comprise; and what was their purpose or function, in:

- ☐ 2006-07
- ☐ 2007-08
- ☐ 2008-09
- ☐ 2009-10
- ☐ 2010-11
- ☐ 2011-12 (to date)

Answer:

Australia Council Committees

Name	Members	Year	Function
Audit & Finance	5	2006-current	Oversees corporate governance obligations, financial reporting, external accountability, internal controls and risk management
Appeals	3	2006-current	Determines any appeal from a board, committee or senior officer regarding a decision by the Council chair and CEO to rescind a previously approved grant
Decisions Review	4	2006-current	Determines requests from grant applicants to review the decision making process of boards and committees
Community Partnerships C'ttee	7	2006-current	Provides strategic, advisory and policy leadership and oversees strategic engagement of arts in the community. It also makes funding decisions.

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Name	Members	Year	Function
Reserves Fund	4	2006-current	Oversees and manages the allocation of funds reserved for triennially funded companies that are experiencing financial difficulties
New Australian Stories	7	Dissolved June 2007	Its role is to support the creation and presentation of new works through the New Australian Stories initiative and approve grants
Multi-cultural Advisory C'ttee	9	Dissolved April 2008	Develops strategies for, and monitors the implementation of the Australia Council's Arts in a Multicultural Australia Policy
Donations Fund	6	Dissolved August 2009	Accepts and administers gifts made to the Australia Council Donations Fund in accordance with the requirements of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and Register of Cultural Organisations
Nominations & Governance	3	Dissolved August 2009	Facilitates and oversees a streamlined nominations process for the Council's boards and committees.

Australia Council boards

Name	Members	Year	Function
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts	9	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Dance	7	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Literature	7	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Music	7	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Theatre	7	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Visual Arts	7	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions
Major Performing Arts	8	2006-current	Develop strategies and policies, make funding decisions and assist the governing Council in its functions

Panels

The only formal panel operating is the Inter Arts Panel. The Inter-Arts Office arranges Assessment Panel Meetings with up to 9 participating advisers, who assist the Council's decision making both in terms of regional knowledge and art form expertise.