

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 99

Topic: Australia Council - Broadband Funding

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Hansard

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

How many artists came to the Australian Council and specifically asked for funding for the use of the NBN to create art?

Answer:

Australia Council:

We do not have a record of all conversations between Australia Council staff and artists regarding the use of the NBN to create art. However, the Australia Council received over 500 enquiries relating to the Broadband Arts Initiative and, subsequently, 119 proposals worth approximately \$10 million.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Question: 100

Topic: Craft Australia and Leigh Warren Dancers

Asked By: Senator MILNE

Type of Question: RRA&T 118

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 4

Senator MILNE: Could you, on notice, please, provide a copy of the first notice letter of review to Craft Australia, because I still think it comes well within the 12-month provision. So I wanted to ask: is defunding successful organisations without proper notice Australia Council accepted modus operandi, given that for Craft Australia it was less than 12 months, and given that exactly the same thing happened to Leigh Warren and Dancers at the end of last year?

Answer:

Australia Council:

- a) Below is a reproduction of the first letter that was sent to all Visual Arts Board Key Organisations, including Craft Australia, by email on 16 November 2010 stating there was going to be a funding review and giving them 12 months notice.

First letter

16 November 2010

Dear Colleague

RE: Visual Arts Board Key Organisations (Triennial) funding review

The Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts has decided to open its Key Organisations funding category in 2011 for 2012 funding to allow new applications for multi-year funding from leading Visual Arts, Craft, Design and Media organisations.

The Australia Council's fair notice policy requires the Board to provide 12 months notice of any changes to funding, either due to policy changes or specific concerns about an organisation.

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So the Board has agreed that in the first instance, new organisations interested in applying for this category will be required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by 17 December 2010. After assessing the EOIs in January 2011, the Board will then make decisions on which organisations will be invited to submit a full application for funding in 2011.

The closing date for applications for these invited organisations and current Key Organisations is 13 July 2011.

If your organisation intends to apply for Key Organisations Triennial funding in 2011 (for the triennium 2012-14), you must submit a new three year business plan. Guidelines and information on how to apply are attached.

To assist in the application process, the Key Organisations unit of the Australia Council will be offering a business planning workshop on 14-15 February 2011 in Sydney. If you are interested in attending this workshop or would like a copy of the presentation, contact Laura McLeod by email (see below). Requests for assistance with travel costs will be considered.

Please note that the applications for triennial funding relate to the Visual Arts Board's Key Organisations funding, not to the Australian Government's Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy funding.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact Laura McLeod on 02 9215 9056 or by email l.mcleod@australiacouncil.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Kon Gouriotis
Director, Visual Arts
Organisations
Australia Council for the Arts

Atul Joshi
Director, Key

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Attachment – ‘guidelines and information on how to apply’.

Visual Arts Board

Key Organisations Triennial funding

Guidelines and How to Apply

The Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts has decided to open its Key Organisations funding category in 2011 for 2012 funding for multi-year funding from leading Visual Arts, Craft, Design and Media organisations.

If your organisation intends to apply for Key Organisations Triennial funding in 2011 (for the triennium 2012-14), you must complete a two-part process.

Part A provides the Visual Arts Board with a new three year business plan outlining your organisation’s artistic vision and goals for the next three years.

Part B is a copy of your most recent audited financial statements that will enable the Visual Arts Board to understand the financial status of your operations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Your application will be considered against the following selection criteria used for Key Organisations funding. Your application should provide evidence of:

- A vital contribution to the development of high quality contemporary art practice as shown by activity relevant to context. For example: service, touring, regional etc.
- the organisation’s artistic and professional skills appropriate to the activity
- the ways in which your organisation engages with the public or membership as shown by audience development strategies and outcomes
- quality and Innovation in the organisation’s ongoing program of local and national and/or international activities; and
- Sustainable planning, governance and management as shown by effective use of resources, including appropriate budgeting and remuneration of artists and staff

Applicants in 2011 must fulfil the above criteria to a high degree AND/OR provide evidence of new models of operations (e.g. partnerships) OR development of new specific audiences OR development of new practices.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit Parts A and B as your Application

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Part A

A three year business plan for 2012-14.

Part B

A copy of your most recent audited financial statements.

Submitting your Application

Applications comprising of the full set of the above documentation must be emailed no later than **5pm on 13 July 2011**. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Submissions should be emailed to:

Laura McLeod, Client Manager, Arts Organisations at
l.mcleod@australiacouncil.gov.au

If you have any questions regarding this Expression of Interest process please contact Laura on 02 9215 9056 or l.mcleod@australiacouncil.gov.au

- b) The Australia Council's Fair Notice provisions are followed in all cases. These provisions state that the Australia Council will give all multi-year funded organisations 12 months notice before a Board effects any material reduction in funding for an organisation.

All Visual Arts Key Organisations, including Craft Australia, were notified in November 2010 that multi-year funded organisations were under review and that their funding beyond December 2011 was not guaranteed. This was over 12 months before Craft Australia were notified of their unsuccessful application for Key Organisation funding for 2012-14.

The Dance Board placed Leigh Warren and Dancers (LWD) on Fair Notice in 2008 regarding concerns about levels of activity, associated audiences, lack of a strong touring rationale and strategy, and a poor business plan. LWD remained on notice until 2011, when the company was notified they were unsuccessful in receiving Key Organisation funding. This notice period was considerably longer than the 12 months required under the Australia Council's Fair Notice Protocol.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 101

Topic: Craft Australia and Development Strategy

Asked By: Senator MILNE

Type of Question: RRA&T 119

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator MILNE: Can you take on notice whether they have been proactively invited to participate in the development of the strategy?

Answer:

Australia Council:

Yes.

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Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 102

Topic: Craft Australia – Chinese Delegation Visit

Asked By: Senator MILNE

Type of Question: RRA&T 119

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator MILNE: Thank you. I understand there is a major visit by a delegation from China next month to discuss craft. What national body will the delegation coordinate with in the absence of Craft Australia—or is Craft Australia being expected to coordinate with the delegation at the same time as it is being wound up?

Ms Keele: I am sorry; I have no idea about the answer to that question. I will have to take it on notice and ask.

Senator MILNE: Please take that on notice. In relation to that, if it is Craft Australia that is being expected to host the Chinese delegation, are they being provided with extra resources separate from the wind-up et cetera in order to manage the visit?

Answer:

Australia Council:

- a) The Australia Council together with Kevin Murray, Australia's representative with the World Crafts Council will coordinate the Chinese delegation.

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Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 103

Topic: Leigh Warren and Dancers

Asked By: Senator MILNE

Type of Question: RRA&T 119

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator MILNE: You told me that Leigh Warren and Dancers had been on notice for a few years. What I would like to know is whether they have been given assistance to meet their contractual obligations this year, because it is the same thing: even though they had been under review, the actual notice of their not being funded was very swift. They had contractual obligations.

Answer:

At the end of 2011 the Australia Council's Dance Board and Arts Organisations Division provided a one-off grant of \$28,082 towards Leigh Warren and Dancers' first production of 2012.

An application to the Dance Board was received on 10 February 2012 for the remount costs associated with the company's Edinburgh Festival presentation in August 2012. This will be assessed in April 2012.

The company has also been informed about the Australia Council's Going Global grants program, which provides funding for international touring. This is a responsive program with no closing dates.

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Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 104

Topic: Defunded Organisations

Asked By: Senator MILNE

Type of Question: RRA&T 119

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Ms Keele: We have ongoing reviews of categories. There are always some that are defunded and some that are funded, so I would have to get you an exact list of who has been funded or defunded. But it is an ongoing and necessary process because we have to make sure that we retain the artistic vibrancy of these organisations, not just, 'This is yours; you can have it for the rest of your life.' It is an active and very challenging process that we stay abreast of. I am happy to get you a list of the ins and outs of the last 12 months if you like.

Senator MILNE: At least the last two years if you could do it, thank you.

Answer:

Australia Council:

For a list of all recipients of Australia Council funding, we refer the Senator to the Australia Council's list of grant recipients at:

<https://online.australiacouncil.gov.au/GrantsList/f?p=113:1:2532328755200215>

The Australia Council determines multi-year funding contracts on a competitive basis. All multi-year funding contracts for arts organisations have a beginning and end date.

The only reason the Australia Council will remove funding from, or defund, an organisation within the period of that contract is in the instance where there is a breach of contract. There were no organisations that had their funding removed in 2009-10 or 2010-11,

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The following organisations, which were on fixed term contracts that expired, were not successful in their application for a new funding contract:

2009-10

Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association

East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation

IAD Press t/u Institute for Aboriginal Development Inc

Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre Aboriginal Corporation - KALACC

Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts Inc

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council

Woomera Aboriginal Corporation

Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation

Stompin Youth Dance Company

2010-11

Australian Writers Guild Ltd

The Australian Society of Authors Ltd

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 – 16 February 2012

Question: 105

Topic: Peer Registration

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: RRA&T 121

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator HUMPHRIES: Would it be fair to say that most of the chosen peers are themselves or have themselves in the past been the recipients of grants from the Australia Council.

Ms Keele: I am afraid I could not answer that off hand. If you want me to do an analysis, I can take a look at that.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Yes, please. In the last financial year, 2010-11, what proportion of the people who were chosen to be peers, doing the job of peers, had themselves been recipients of grants?

Answer:

Australia Council:

14.5 per cent of peers who were used as part of the assessment process in 2010-2011 were recipients of grants in that year.

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Question: 106

Topic: Australia Council - Defunding of Organisations

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 3

On Tuesday 14 February 2012, in response to a question from Senator Milne concerning organisations the Australia Council had reduced funding to, Ms Kathy Keele told the Committee:

There are always some that are defunded and some that are funded, so I would have to get you an exact list of who has been funded or defunded.

Please provide, for each of the following financial years, a list of organisations/recipients to which the Australia Council has reduced, removed, or terminated funding.

- a) 2008-09
- b) 2009-10
- c) 2010-11
- d) 2011-12

Answer:

The following multi-year funded organisations had their funding reduced:

- a) 2008-09

Australian Music Centre

Carclew Youth Arts Centre

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation

Legs on the Wall

- b) 2009-10

Ananguku Arts and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation

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c) 2010-11

Australian Music Industry Network

d) 2011-12

Australian Music Centre Limited

The Australia Council determines multi-year contracts on a competitive basis. All multi-year funding contracts for arts organisations have a beginning and end date. The only reason the Australia Council will remove funding from, or defund, an organisation within the period of that contract is in the instance where there is a breach of contract. There were no organisations that had their funding removed in the years specified.

The following organisations, which were on fixed term contracts that expired, were not successful in their application for a new funding contract:

a) 2008-09

Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation

Chamber Made Opera Inc

ELISION Incorporated

IHOS

Barking Gecko Theatre Company Ltd

La Boite Theatre Inc

Melbourne Workers Theatre

Polyglot Puppet Theatre Ltd

Sidetrack Performance Group Ltd

Tasmanian Theatre Company Ltd

Vitalstatistix Theatre Company

b) 2009-10

Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association

East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation

IAD Press t/u Institute for Aboriginal Development Inc

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Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre Aboriginal Corporation -

KALACC

Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts Inc

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council

Woomera Aboriginal Corporation

Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation

Stompin Youth Dance Company

c) 2010-11

Australian Writers Guild Ltd

The Australian Society of Authors Ltd

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation

d) 2011-12

Buzz Dance Theatre Ltd

Leigh Warren and Dancers Pty Ltd

Multicultural Arts Victoria Inc (Tony Yap Dancers)

Reeldance

Australian Music Industry Network (Initiative)

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

Sydney Philharmonia Ltd

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Craft Australia

dLux media arts inc

South Australian Country Arts Trust

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 107

Topic: Review of the Australia Council

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On Tuesday February 14, 2012, in response to a question from Senator Milne relating to the review of the Australia Council, Ms Kathy Keele told the Committee:

...we did not request that it be a secret, non-transparent process...

- a. Was the Australia Council invited to provide a written submission to the review?
- b. Has the Australia Council provided a written submission to the review?
- c. If so, please provide a copy of that submission.

Answer:

- a. Yes.
- b. Yes.
- c. The submission and all feedback provided to chairs has been provided in-confidence.

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Question: 108

Topic: Register of Peers - Background Checks

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

In relation to the Australia Council's Register of Peers, what referee, background, or criminal history checks are conducted on applicants before they are admitted to the Register of Peers?

Answer:

Peers are selected on the basis of best match with the expertise and experience for the task at hand. Selection is made using the information provided on the registration form. Recording details on the Register does not guarantee that a peer will be used.

The decision to use a peer is usually made between board/committee members and senior staff based on reports from other peers in the sector and knowledge of the person from within the Australia Council.

No criminal history checks are undertaken.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 109

Topic: Register of Peers - Dismissals

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On Tuesday February 14, 2012, Ms Kathy Keele, in relation to the Register of Peers told the Committee:

We do not take people off that unless we know something bad.

- a) What is the process the Australia Council follows to remove members from the Register of Peers?
- b) How many, and for what reason have members been removed from the Register of Peers in circumstances Ms Keele was referring to in:
 - 2008-09
 - 2009-10
 - 2010-11
 - 2011-12

Answer:

- a) The name would be removed from the list and the person notified.
- b) No peers have been removed from the register over these years.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 110

Topic: Register of Peers - Current Numbers

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Provide current number of members on the Register of Peers.

Answer:

There are 378 people on the Register of Peers.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 111

Topic: Register of Peers - Grant Recipients

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

How many current members of the Register of Peers have been, or are, recipients of grants from the Australia Council?

Answer:

53 per cent of the people on the Register of Peers are or have been recipients of individual grants from the Australia Council since 2002. The Australia Council does not have data recorded in a way that would readily allow us to answer this question in regards to grant recipients prior to 2002. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Peers selected to act as participating peer advisers at board meetings, committee or advisory assessment panel members, or external assessors enter into a contract for services with the Australia Council. This contract outlines the nature of the services to be performed by the peer, when and where these services are to be undertaken, the fee for the services, and other terms of their engagement by Council, including abiding by Council's conflict of interest policies and Code of Conduct.

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Question: 112

Topic: Register of Peers by Location

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

How many members of the Register of Peers are from, based in, or list their address as being in:

- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Perth
- Canberra
- Tasmania
- Northern Territory
- Regional Queensland
- Regional Victoria
- Regional South Australia
- Regional New South Wales
- Regional Western Australia

Answer:

- Sydney - 46
- Melbourne - 47
- Adelaide - 15
- Brisbane - 26
- Perth - 14
- Canberra - 2

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- Tasmania - 7
- Northern Territory - 4
- Regional Queensland - 6
- Regional Victoria - 3
- Regional South Australia - 2
- Regional New South Wales - 8
- Regional Western Australia - 8

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Question: 113

Topic: Board Membership by Location

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

How many members of boards of the Australia Council are from, are based in, or list their address as being in:

- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Perth
- Canberra
- Tasmania
- Northern Territory
- Regional Queensland
- Regional Victoria
- Regional South Australia
- Regional New South Wales
- Regional Western Australia

Answer:

The following numbers are based on membership in the Australia Council's Music Board, Visual Arts Board, Literature Board, Dance Board, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board, and the Major Performing Arts Board.

- Sydney - 14
- Melbourne - 6
- Adelaide - 3

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- Brisbane - 4
- Perth - 3
- Canberra - 2
- Tasmania - 3
- Northern Territory- 2
- Regional Queensland - 3
- Regional Victoria - 2
- Regional South Australia - 2
- Regional New South Wales - 3
- Regional Western Australia - 2

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

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Question: 114

Topic: Complaints about the Australia Council

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On Tuesday February 14 2012, Ms Kathy Keele told the Committee, in relation to complaints the Australia Council receives:

...people do complain to council and we hear them out...

... We get plenty of people who come in and are not happy...

- a) What information does the Australia Council collect about complaints it receives?
- b) How many complaints did the Australia Council receive in:
 - 2008-09
 - 2009-10
 - 2010-11
 - 2011-12

Answer:

- a) The information collected varies according to the nature of complaints. The Australia Council resolves all complaints in accordance with its Service Charter. The Service Charter can be found on the Australia Council website at:
http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about_us/corporate_information/service_charter
- b) The number of complaints received by the Australia Council during 2011-12 (to 31 January 2012) is 4. Details of the number of complaints received by the Australia Council in previous financial years are available in the Australia Council's annual reports (see:
http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about_us/corporate_information/annual_report2)

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Question: 115

Topic: Funding and Programs - Australia Council

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

What funding programs does the Australia Council provide with the specific aim of showcasing, promoting, or supporting artists to develop works that celebrate or commemorate:

- Australia Day
- Anzac Day

Answer:

Australia Council:

The Australia Council does not offer specific funding programs or grant categories with the aim of showcasing, promoting, or supporting artists to develop works that celebrate or commemorate Australia Day or Anzac Day. Applicants exploring themes related to these celebrations may submit applications to the general grants categories of the Australia Council.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 116

Topic: The Australia Council and Promoting the NBN – Daily Telegraph

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On 1 February 2012, the Daily Telegraph ran a newspaper article with the headline:

The art of propaganda: \$100,000 grants offered to promote National Broadband Network

On the same day the Herald Sun ran a newspaper article with the headline:

Artists paid up to \$100,000 to promote the NBN.

- a) When did the Australia Council become aware of these newspaper articles?
- b) Does the Australia Council accept that these newspaper headlines are accurate?
 - If not, did the Australia Council contact either newspaper seeking a correction?
 - If not, did the Australia Council do anything else to correct any inaccuracies?

Answer:

- a) 1 February 2012.
- b) No.
 - No.
 - No.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 117

Topic: The Australia Council and Promoting the NBN - Herald Sun

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On 1 February 2012, Mr Andrew Bolt from the Herald Sun wrote on his website, concerning the Australia Council's promotion of the NBN:

That the Australia Council doesn't die of shame at being party to such Soviet-style propagandising, the very antithesis of the arts.

How does the Australia Council respond to such criticism?

Answer:

The objective of this initiative, which is to provide grants for artistic teams to demonstrate the opportunities for the arts opened up by next generation high speed broadband.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 118

Topic: The Australia Council and Promoting the NBN - Twitter

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On Thursday 2 February 2012, the Australia Council tweeted that of the Broadband Arts Initiative that there has been:

...confusion about it in the media.

Does the Australia Council accept responsibility for this “confusion” by describing the intent of its Broadband Arts Initiative as:

...to enrich our future with the NBN.

And:

... to showcase the cultural potential of the NBN.

Answer:

No. It is clear from the materials that the Broadband Arts Initiative is to provide significant grants for artistic teams to demonstrate the opportunities for the arts opened up by next generation high speed broadband. We have no evidence of there being confusion around the intent of this initiative in the arts sector.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 119

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - Source of Funding

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

The Australia Council's media statement of 16 December 2011 stated there was be an "initial" funding pool of \$300,000 for the Broadband Arts Initiative.

- a) Does the Australia Council have plans to expand this funding pool?
- b) From where did the Australia Council draw this \$300,000 funding pool?
- c) Prior to the announcement of the Broadband Arts Initiative, where was this \$300,000 in funding allocated?

Answer:

- a) Funding for the Broadband Arts Initiative is part of the Australia Council's current funding for strategic priorities. This funding is allocated annually to address any specific issue, gap or opportunity for the arts sector. Any decision to expand on this investment would be part of this process.
- b) In considering the budget, the Council's governing board discusses specific issues, gaps and opportunities for the arts sector, and identifies its strategic priorities on an annual basis. The Broadband Arts Initiative funding was allocated through this process.
- c) In considering the budget, the Council's governing board discusses specific issues, gaps and opportunities for the arts sector, and identifies its strategic priorities on an annual basis. The Broadband Arts Initiative funding was allocated through this process.

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 120

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative Decision

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On what date did the Australia Council decide that it would commit funds to the Broadband Arts Initiative?

Answer:

The Broadband Arts Initiative is part of the Australia Council 2011–12 strategic priorities effective from 1 July 2011. The governing council endorsed this strategic priority on 23 May 2011.

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Question: 121

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - NBN Co

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

What consultations have there been between the Australia Council and NBN Co concerning the Broadband Arts Initiative, and on what date did consultations first commence?

Answer:

The Australia Council's internal Digital Reference Group met with a representative from NBN Co on Friday 4 November 2011 to discuss issues and opportunities for artists and arts organisations in relation to next generation broadband. In addition, at officer level, periodical discussions took place about how the arts sector could be better informed about the benefits of next generation broadband.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 122

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - NBN Rollout

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

On what date did the Australia Council seek information from NBN Co concerning dates and locations of where the NBN would be rolled out?

Answer:

On 8 November 2011 at the NBN Co Forum in Sydney.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 123

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - Funding Guidelines

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Has the Australia Council developed its funding guidelines and eligibility criteria for the Broadband Arts Initiative to coincide or take into account the dates and locations where the NBN will be rolled out?

Answer:

Yes. The funding guidelines also made it clear that projects delivered in networks similar to the NBN would also be eligible.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 124

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - Consultation with DBCDE

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. What consultations have there been between the Australia Council and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, concerning the development of a Broadband Arts Initiative?
2. On what date did this consultation first occur?

Answer:

1. There have been no consultations with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, concerning the development of a Broadband Arts Initiative.
2. Not applicable.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 125

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative - Government Advertising

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Has the Australia Council sought legal advice, or advice from the Department of Finance and Deregulation or advice from the Australian Electoral Commission, concerning the Broadband Arts Initiative and requirements concerning government advertising?

Answer:

No.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 126

Topic: Pay TV Subscriptions - Australia Council

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

In response to a previous question on notice, the Australia Council advised it has not paid for any pay television subscriptions since 2007.

1. Does the Australia Council have any televisions connected to a pay-television service in any of their premises?
2. If so, who pays for or donated these services?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Not Applicable.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 127

Topic: Register of Peers - Members

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Are Mr Angus James or Ms Gabrielle Trainor members of the Australia Council's Register of Peers?

Answer:

No.