

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 49

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative

Asked By: Senator HUMPHRIES

Type of Question: RRA&T 125

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator HUMPHRIES: I was curious about the Broadband Arts Initiative. There was a media release on 16 December 2011 where the Australia Council announced a funding pool of \$300,000 for the Broadband Arts Initiative. That announcement was somewhat criticised and even ridiculed in some of the media, as you would be aware. Subsequently the media release itself making this announcement and providing these details has disappeared off the Australia Council's website. Media releases before that date and after that date all appear there but this media release does not. Is there any reason why that might be the case?

Answer:

All published application material relating to the Broadband Arts Initiative was archived on the website on 10 August 2012. The media release was unintentionally archived in this process. The Australia Council has a policy of keeping all of its media releases on the website. The media release has been returned to the website.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 50

Topic: Broadband Arts Initiative

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

Can the Australia Council confirm that:

1. on 16 December 2011, it released a media release entitled “*Artists invited to enrich our future with the NBN*”?
2. on 2 February, in response to the media controversy regarding its promotion of the NBN, the Australia Council tweeted there has been:
 - a. “...*confusion about it in the media* <http://bit.ly/zDP0Pj> “; and later
 - b. “...*#intsnotaboutpromotingthenbn*”
3. the Australia Council’s website:
<http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/news/tag/media_release> carries copies of media releases dating back to January 2010.
4. at some time subsequent to 1 February 2012, the media release “*Artists invited to enrich our future with the NBN*” of December 16 2011 was removed from the Australia Council’s website (www.australiacouncil.gov.au).
 - a. if so,
 - i. on what date was it removed?
 - ii. for what reason was it removed?
 - iii. who directed or took the decision that it be removed?
 - iv. was the CEO involved in, or informed of, this decision before it was actioned?

Answer:

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

4. All published application material relating to the Broadband Arts Initiative was archived on the website on 10 August 2012. The media release was unintentionally archived in this process. The CEO first became aware that the media release was not on the website on 16 October 2012. The Australia Council has a policy of keeping all of its media releases on the website. The media release has been returned to the website.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 51

Topic: Media Releases

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Please provide copies of all media releases that have been issued by the Australia Council, that do not appear on the Australia Council's website (www.australiacouncil.gov.au) as of 16 February 2012, and in each instance provide:

1. the date it was released
2. the date it was removed from the Australia Council website www.australiacouncil.gov.au.
3. the reason it was removed, or not published to the website www.australiacouncil.gov.au.

Answer:

All media releases issued by the Australia Council between 16 February 2012 and 30 September appear on the Australia Council website.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 52

Topic: Media Releases Protocols

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Please detail the procedures and and/or protocols within the Australia Council for the drafting and release of media releases, including:

- a. the approval protocols for authorising media releases, and the position titles of officers authorised to approve them;
- b. if all releases are approved by the CEO;
- c. if releases quoting the CEO are approved by the CEO; and
- d. if drafts are routinely provided to the Office for the Arts or the Minister's Office prior to their release.

Answer:

- a. The CEO approves all media releases, including quotes from the CEO.
- b. The CEO approves all media releases, including quotes from the CEO.
- c. The CEO approves all media releases, including quotes from the CEO.
- d. No.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 53

Topic: Media Releases - Content

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

On how many occasions has the Australia Council issued media releases that include direct quotes from the Federal Minister for the Arts in:

1. 2012 (to date)
2. 2011
3. 2010
4. 2009
5. 2008

Answer:

1. 0
2. 3
3. 0
4. 1
5. 1

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 54

Topic: Artery

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

In how many articles has *Artery* included photographs or quotes from the Federal Minister for the Arts in:

- a. 2012 (to date)
- b. 2011
- c. 2010
- d. 2009
- e. 2008

Answer:

- a. 1
- b. 0
- c. 1
- d. 2
- e. 1

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Supplementary Budget Estimates 16 October 2012

Question: 55

Topic: Twitter

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

How many twitter accounts does the Australia Council operate or utilise, for each providing:

- a. It's name, its function and its particular focus;
- b. on many occasions in each calendar year from 2008 to 2012, each account has re-tweeted, or referred in tweets to:
 - i. "SimonCrean_MP"
 - ii. "artsculturegov"
 - iii. the NBN

Answer:

- a. The Australia Council operates the following Twitter accounts:
 - Australia Council for the Arts, <http://twitter.com/auscouncilarts>
 - Inter-arts, <http://twitter.com/interarts>
 - Theatre_OzCo, http://twitter.com/Theatre_OzCo
 - ArtStart grants, <http://twitter.com/ArtStartGrants>
 - JUMP Mentoring, <http://twitter.com/JUMPMentoring>
 - Director of Theatre, <http://twitter.com/directorthatre>

For more information on these respective accounts, I refer the Senator to <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about/connect>

- b. The Australia Council does not record Twitter activity in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions.