



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Senator Andrew Bragg
Chair
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I seek to provide clarifications in the evidence given by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee during Budget Estimates hearings on Thursday 31 March 2022.

Senator Hanson-Young asked about the reduction in the funding profile for Screen Australia, reported in the Federal Budget, from \$27.0 million to \$11.0 million, which occurs between 2022-23 and 2023-24. I replied that this was due to the termination of the SCREEN Fund program, a \$12.0 million COVID-19 support measure. The SCREEN Fund program terminates in 2021-22. The reduction between 2022-23 and 2023-24 is actually due to the following measures terminating in 2022-23: \$15.0 million in additional support for Screen Australia and \$1.0 million Scriptwriting and Script Development Fund.

Senator Hanson-Young asked Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary of the Department, a general question on the decrease in overall arts and cultural funding. The Secretary noted that there was around \$1 billion in additional funding for the sector to support it through COVID-19. I wish to clarify that the \$1 billion includes core arts funding and additional COVID support provided to the arts and creative sector in 2021-22.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these clarifications.

Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Arnott PSM
Deputy Secretary
Creative Economy and the Arts

6 May 2022