



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Friday, 31 May 2024
Daily Summary

The committee met from 9.03am until 2.38pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Creative Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Portrait Gallery of Australia
- National Gallery of Australia

DITRDCA: Outcome 6.1

- Funding allocated to the department to work with France to facilitate the repatriation of Indigenous Australian remains;
- Details surrounding the establishment of two new First Nations language centres;
- Preservation of First Nations languages across Australia;
- Additional budget funding for arts and associated training organisations;
- Location offset legislation for screen productions;
- Budget funding for *Revive* (the new National Cultural Policy);
- Funding for arts institutions, including Queensland Ballet, at a state level vs federal agencies;
- Details surrounding the increase in costs for music festivals, and what is being done to alleviate those difficulties;
- Allegations of antisemitism in the arts sector;
- Budget funding allocated to preservation for audiovisual media stored in a non-digital manner; and
- Funding for orchestras across Australia, and criteria for that funding.

Creative Australia

- The Gina Rinehart portrait and protection of freedom of expression;
- Funding arrangements for Queensland Ballet and Ballet Australia;
- Sydney Theatre Company, protests and political statements made by artists and performers;
- Employment arrangements at Creative Australia and whether they follow the APS code of conduct;
- Establishment and continuous investment in Music Australia; and
- Regional arts expenditure.

National Museum of Australia (NMA)

- NMA processes for returning of Indigenous Australian remains to country;
- Processes regarding the display, rotation and storage of museum articles; and
- Processes surrounding the touring of NMA items in rural Australia.

National Portrait Gallery of Australia

- Portraits of individuals displayed in the gallery and negotiations surrounding the way they are displayed;
- Use of AI in artwork and how the gallery is intending to deal with it in future; and
- Total number of items in the collection and the method in which they are stored.

National Gallery of Australia (NGA)

- Touring of gallery items in regional locations;
- External pressure on the gallery regarding to the Gina Rinehart portrait;
- Details surrounding EOIs and upcoming locations for the sharing the national collection initiative; and
- NGA storage facilities in Australia and associated ongoing costs.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on 7 June 2024 in Committee room 2S3 for examination of the Cross-Portfolio Murray Darling Basin Matters