

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**  
ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Division:** Office for the Arts

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

**Topic:** JobKeeper and JobSeeker Arrangements

**Question Type:** Written (26/06/2020)

**Senator Gallagher asked:**

1. In relation to the Minister's statement in an op-ed on 23 April 2020 that the Government's JobKeeper and JobSeeker arrangements "will end up being worth between \$4bn and \$10bn of support to the creative workforce, making it the single biggest government investment to support our arts and creative sector that we have ever seen"
  - a. Was this statement made based on advice provided by the Department? If so, on what date was that advice provided?
  - b. Does the Minister stand by this estimate of the aggregate value of JobKeeper payments and the Coronavirus supplement to the creative workforce based on the latest available information?
  - c. Has the Minister received any feedback from stakeholders that this figure may be inaccurate? If so, what steps did the Minister take to respond to this feedback?

**Answer:**

- a. Yes. The Department provided advice to the Minister to support his op-ed on 16 April 2020.
- b. Yes.
- c. Yes. There have been some requests for information on the basis of the estimate. Material will be released in due course.