

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Creative Partnerships Australia**

**Question No: 196(j)**

**Creative Partnerships Australia**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/2/2016**

**Topic: Grants**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
2. How are grants applied for?
3. Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
  - (a) Can these restrictions be waived? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waived.
4. What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
5. Who is involved in this selection process?
6. Does the minister or the minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
  - (a) Has the minister or the minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.
7. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
8. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

**Answer:**

1. Creative Partnerships' matched funding program guidelines are published on Creative Partnerships' web site. Guidelines for the Australian Culture Fund (ACF) program, under which Creative Partnerships also issues grants, are available on the ACF web site. Grants issued under the ACF are funded by private donors, rather than through government grants.
2. Creative Partnerships grants are applied for via an open call for applications.

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3. Eligibility criteria, including restrictions, for grants are as stated in the published guidelines.
  - (a) These restrictions cannot be waived.
4. Matched Funding grants are approved by a panel of independent peer assessors. Grants under the Australian Cultural Fund are approved by the Creative Partnerships Board, taking into account the preferences of donors who have gifted to the program.
5. The grants selection process involves the Creative Partnerships Board, in the case of the ACF, and senior Creative Partnerships staff and the peer assessment panel for the matched funding programs.
6. Neither the Minister, nor the Minister's office, play a role in the awarding of grants.
  - (a) Neither the minister, nor the minister's office, has exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants?
7. Financial year to date, Creative Partnerships has issued 2 grants under its Plus1 matched funding stream to: Bangarra Dance Theatre for \$50,000 and Documentary Australian Foundation for \$60,000. Both recipient organisations received the grants to assist them to leverage private sector support through their fundraising activities. Both organisations support and work with the arts sector nationally. Financial year to date, 127 grants, utilising donations received from private donors, have been issued under the ACF program.
8. There were no grants that were approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time.