

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No. 67

Museum of Australian Democracy

Hansard Ref: Page 78, 9/02/2016

Topic: Museum of Australian Democracy - Efficiency Dividend

Senator Gallagher, Katy asked:

Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of the cuts, you said, 'Yes, advice was provided to government around what this would mean'. Was that post the MYEFO being released or before that decision was taken?

Ms Karp: It was around that time. I do not specifically recall.

Senator GALLAGHER: You cannot recall whether it was published in the papers—that is, you are getting a cut, or you might be getting this cut and what does it mean?

Senator Fifield: There are a range of discussions which occur between the department and agencies in the context of budgets and MYEFOs. What the nature of those discussions are and what they cover are not things that are usually gone into in Senate estimates.

Senator GALLAGHER: Okay; if you do not want to answer that, it is fine. I am just trying to get an understanding of whether the government, when taking this decision, actually understood the implications of a decision like this and what the results of that efficiency dividend would be. In the past, cultural institutions have either been exempted or received a smaller efficiency dividend requirement because of the very nature of the work that they do and the organisations they are.

Senator Fifield: Just a point of clarification: I do not think institutions were exempted under the former government in relation to efficiency dividends.

Senator GALLAGHER: I think they were from some rounds; they certainly were received less of an efficiency dividend than others.

Senator Fifield: We will take that on notice and check, but my point is—

Senator GALLAGHER: I am sure you will; it is not the subject of this. I am just trying to—

Senator Fifield: efficiency dividends are not something that is unique to this government.

Answer:

Cultural institutions were not exempted from previous ongoing efficiency dividends. However, in 2012-13 the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House was part of a group of agencies that were exempted from an additional single-year 2.5 per cent imposition on top of the existing 1.5 per cent efficiency dividend at that time. The other agencies exempted from this single-year impost were:

- Family Court of Australia
- Federal Court of Australia
- High Court of Australia
- Federal Magistrates Court
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Social Security Appeals Tribunal

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- National Native Title Tribunal
- Migration Review Tribunal—Refugee Review Tribunal
- Australian National Maritime Museum
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Australian Film Television and Radio School
- Australian Sports Commission
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Archives of Australia
- Screen Australia
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian War Memorial
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Aboriginal Hostels Limited
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- Australian Communications and Media Authority