

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: 70

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 93, 9/02/2016

Topic: Gallery Grants - application

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: Thanks for that. I am just aware of the time. I do have some more on MYEFO, and I also have some on the Australian World Orchestra grant, but I might put them on notice. I do, however, want to have a look at the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco grant money of \$485,450 that was received. From the outset I will say that I am in no way being critical of the artwork, am making no judgement about the artwork involved. I am strictly interested in the process and procedures involved behind that. Are you able to tell me when the application was received by the Ministry?

Ms Basser: I do not have that detail with me. I would need to take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me anything about the business case for the project?

Ms Basser: Again, each application has to provide a full business case, and that application, as with all the applications, was assessed by two external assessors and an internal assessor. So, again, I would have to take the details of that on notice.

Senator BILYK: Yes, if you could, thank you. Are you able to tell me how much was requested? I know how much they received, but how much was requested?

Ms Basser: Again, I would need to take that on notice.

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me how much money was already committed or spent by the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery?

Ms Basser: Again, it was a partnership application, so there were a number of parties who provided a partnership, and I will need to take on notice to get those details.

Senator BILYK: Now, we know the grant was announced on 2 February. Is that correct?

Ms Basser: Yes.

Senator BILYK: When was the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery informed that it was successful?

Ms Basser: I would need to take that on notice as well.

Senator BILYK: Would the project have proceeded if the Ministry had not provided the grant of \$485,450?

Ms Basser: I will take all those questions on notice in terms of the details of that.

Answers:

Senator Bilyk asked: Thanks for that. I am just aware of the time. I do have some more on MYEFO, and I also have some on the Australian World Orchestra grant, but I might put them on notice. I do, however, want to have a look at the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco grant money of \$485,450 that was received. From the outset I will say that I am in no way being critical of the artwork, am making no judgement about the artwork involved. I am strictly interested in the process and procedures involved behind that. Are you able to tell me when the application was received by the Ministry?

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Answer: The application was received on 14 Dec 2015 at 3:36pm.

Senator Bilyk asked: Are you able to tell me anything about the business case for the project?

Answer: Catalyst was asked to contribute 35.43% of the total project cost. The remainder was to be provided by other grants, private sector donations, and fees foregone. 50 individual artists will benefit from this activity. It will clearly strengthen Australia's reputation as a sophisticated and artistic nation with a confident, outward-focused arts sector in a global context.

Senator Bilyk asked: Are you able to tell me how much was requested?

Answer: The applicant requested \$485,450.

Senator Bilyk asked: Are you able to tell me how much money was already committed or spent by the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery?

Answer: \$0

Senator Bilyk asked: When was the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery informed that it was successful?

Answer: Suzanne O'Connell Galleries were notified on 22 December 2015.

Senator Bilyk asked: Would the project have proceeded if the Ministry had not provided the grant of \$485,450?

Answer: The applicant demonstrated a need for the funding for the project to proceed.