

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: 71

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 93-94, 09/02/2016

Topic: Girringun arts Organisation - project partnership

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me what representations were made—are you telling me you do not have anything here about the Suzanne O'Connell—

Ms Bassar: Yes, I do, but this project is in partnership with the Girringun arts organisation. The project will be supporting 50 participating artists, who are largely Indigenous, to develop an exhibition of Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists' works that will be taken to Monaco. There will be six visual arts installations made up of 47 individual new works, dance performances, exhibitions, support materials. This has been developed in collaboration with small to medium arts organisations, including Indigenous arts centres of North Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands.

Senator BILYK: Is that just the information that is on the website there?

Ms Bassar: I am not sure of the details of what is on the website.

Senator BILYK: Well, where did you get that information from, then?

Ms Bassar: That is information about the project that I have with me.

Senator BILYK: All that you have with you?

Ms Bassar: Yes.

Ms O'Loughlin: Senator, we do not have those details with us. I think it is fair to say, though, that it is the type of activity that the catalyst program was really designed to fund—something that had partnerships involved in it. So, to answer your question around whether it would have happened without Commonwealth money: probably not, because those partners needed another partner to make it work for them. It is also a large-scale international project, which would not necessarily proceed—

Senator BILYK: I understand that.

Ms O'Loughlin: So, it has a lot of advantages to it that we considered. But we are happy to take the details of that on notice and give you—

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Answer:

Suzanne O'Connell Gallery and Associates are working in partnership with Giringun Aboriginal Corporation.

Ms O'Connell contacted the Minister's Office to request a meeting to discuss the project but a meeting was not scheduled.

The purpose of this Grant is to support Suzanne O'Connell Galleries to undertake the development of an exhibition of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists' works to be toured to Monaco from March 2016.

The Activity will:

- support the development of an exhibition of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists' works to be toured to Monaco, consisting of six visual art installations (made up of 47 individual new works), dance performances and exhibition support materials, developed in collaboration with small and medium arts organisations in Australia including the Indigenous art centres of Northern Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands, and working with fifty participating artists;
- support a partnership with the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco to host the exhibition and public program in March 2016; and
- support a partnership with the Musee des Confluences in Lyon to develop a public program of events to coincide with the activities and exhibition at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, including a performance by Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.