

**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: 75**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Book Council**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

Note that the Book Council will now not be established and the funds taken from the Australia Council

- (a) What advice did the Ministry provide to the Minister about the disestablishment of the Book Council?
- (b) How much was the funds taken from the Australia Council to establish the Book Council, and when? How much was expended on the Book Council? What has happened to the remaining funds?
- (c) When and how were the Chair and members of the Book Council informed their services were no longer required?

**Answer:**

- (a) What advice did the Ministry provide to the Minister about the disestablishment of the Book Council?

The decision to abolish the Book Council is a matter for the Government.

- (b) How much was the funds taken from the Australia Council to establish the Book Council, and when? How much was expended on the Book Council? What has happened to the remaining funds?

In December 2014 the government announced that funds of \$6 million over 3 years starting in 2015-16 would be reallocated from the Australia Council for the Book Council. None of the funds allocated for the Book Council were expended. The funds were identified as a savings measure in the 2015-16 MYEFO.

- (c) When and how were the Chair and members of the Book Council informed their services were no longer required?

The Minister's Office informed the Chair and the individual members personally prior to the Government's public announcement of the MYEFO decisions.