

**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: 78**

**Department of Communications and the Arts**

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

**Topic: Australian World Orchestra grant**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

1. I note the grant of \$2,420,000 to the Australian World Orchestra on 30 October 2015. This was in addition to two previous grants of \$600,000 and \$550,000. What submission or justification was provided for this grant? By whom?
  - (a) How was the sum of \$2.4m arrived at? Who made the decision?

**Answer:**

1. The Australian World Orchestra submitted a proposal for funding, which was considered by the former Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, following advice from the Ministry.

The grant supported the achievement of Outcome 2 as outlined in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements for the Attorney-General's Department, of which the Ministry for the Arts was then a part: "participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression". The funded activity is consistent with this Outcome and increases access to the arts in regional and remote Australia and supports the Australian performing arts.

- (a) A one-off administered grant of \$550,000 (plus GST of \$55,000) annually over four years from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (total \$2,200,000 plus GST of \$220,000) was provided to the Australian World Orchestra to support administration costs and assist in the delivery of programme activities from 2015-16 to 2018-19.

The decision was made by the former Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC.