

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates February 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australia Council**

**Question No: 259**

**Australia Council**

**Hansard Ref: Page 6, 28/02/2017**

**Topic: Spending on grants programs – actual and projected**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

**Senator BILYK:** Sorry, Mr Grybowski, 2016-17 was what—51?

**Mr Grybowski:** Yes, \$51.5 million. Subject to budget approval, \$54.5 million in 2017-18. There were, however, some discontinued programs—ArtStart, Artists in Residence, Creative Communities Partnerships—of just of \$11 million, which concluded in the 2015-16 year. In addition to that, the council applied \$5 million per year from its reserves in the 2016-17 year and 2017-18 year. So you must understand that there are a number of budget lines, and it is important to understand each of those lines to see the whole of the impact.

**Senator BILYK:** I absolutely agree. That is why I am trying to get some clarity around them.

**Mr Grybowski:** If you did not hear those figures, I am happy to confirm those figures in writing.

**Senator BILYK:** That would be good. I did get them, but that would be good anyway for me for future references. Are you able to tell me what funding will be badged as Australia Council funding but be projects or programs that were approved by an entity other than the Australia Council under Catalyst or any other programs?

**Answer:**

The following table shows the total of funding allocated to the Australia Council's programs, comprising multi-year core program funding for small to medium organisations, the grants program, residencies and fellowships, as well as strategic initiatives:

<b>Australia Council programs (\$ millions)</b>			
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
56.8	50.5	51.5	54.6

Approximately \$11.8 million in Catalyst grants transferred from the Department of Communications and the Arts will be delivered by the Australia Council.

The discontinued programs were ArtStart, Artists in Residence, the Creative Communities Partnerships Initiative and Creative Australia Fellowships.