

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 42

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 4, 20/10/2015

Topic: Cultural Development Program

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: That is what I thought. I will rush through these because we have a short time frame. In regard to the Indigenous art code, where are we at? Has the minister had any advice yet from the ministry about that?

Senator Fifield: I will ask Ms Basser to talk to that.

Ms Basser: With the Indigenous art code, I think there was a settled decision that it would continue to operate on a voluntary basis. The intention is to continue to administer it as a voluntary code, with a focus on educating consumers about ethical purchasing and educating artists about their rights.

Senator BILYK: Has the minister had any briefing on that yet?

Senator Fifield: Specifically on the art code, no.

Senator BILYK: The only reason I ask is that I saw in one of your interviews that you said you had not had time to get to it yet. I accept that, as a new minister, you cannot do everything at once. I just wanted to know whether there had been any movement since that interview. The minister announced on 1 October increased annual funding for the Australian Ballet School of \$200,000 a year to give performances at the Sydney Opera House. Can you tell me which area that money came from? The media statement said that it came from the cultural development program; is that correct?

Ms Basser: That is correct.

Senator BILYK: How much money was in that program?

Ms Basser: That is a program that contains all of the administered funding for different programs.

Senator BILYK: What is the total for the cultural development program?

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

Answer:

The current total budget for the Arts and Cultural Development program is \$213.981 million which encompasses funding allocated to various programs that the Ministry for the Arts administers.