

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Council

Question No: 45

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 45, 20/10/2015

Topic: Arts in Creative Communities and Arts-in-Residences - Status

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: What is the status of arts in creative communities and artists-in-residence, which were flagged to be abolished?

Mr Grybowski: Those programs were mentioned in one of the budget measure savings in the May budget. They have been either concluded or significantly reduced in their activity.

Senator BILYK: Can you take on notice a bit of a breakdown on that for me?

Mr Grybowski: Yes.

Answer:

Following the 2015-16 Budget measures, the Australia Council announced the Creative Communities Partnerships Initiative (CCPI) and Artists in Residence programs will not be offered in the future.

CCPI was an Australian Government initiative that was first announced in the May 2008 Budget, providing \$10 million in funding over four years (2008-09 to 2011-12) for innovative, large-scale, multi-year projects delivered through partnerships between arts and non-arts organisations. These projects increased access for Australians to participate in arts and cultural activities in their communities.

CCPI continued to be delivered from 2012-13 onwards, with funding allocations as follows:

- \$2.7 million in 2012-13;
- \$2.5 million in 2013-14; and
- \$4 million in 2014-15.

2015-16 is the final year of Australian Government funding for CCPI. In 2015-16 the Australia Council is administering \$570,000 for existing project commitments only, through CCPI, and will not be accepting further applications to CCPI in the 2015-16 financial year or beyond.

The 2015-16 Budget measure *Arts and Cultural Programmes – efficiencies* applied a reduction to the Artists in Residence program, which places professional practising artists in residence in schools across Australia to enhance the education of students through arts engagement projects. Following this reduction, and combined with a significant overall reduction in the Council's 2015-16 appropriation through the Budget measures, the Australia Council announced it will cease delivery of the Artists in Residence program after 2015. Australian Government funding for the Artists in Residence program in 2014-15 was \$1.25 million.

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The Australia Council negotiated Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with each state and territory arts agency and education department for the delivery of Artists in Residence. Current MoUs took effect from January 2013 and will expire on 31 December 2015.

The Artists in Residence program is distinct from the Australia Council's International Residencies Program, which is continuing. Please refer to response to QoN 46 for more information.