

**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: 51**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 30/10/2015**

**Topic: Ballet School**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

1. The Minister announced on 1 October 2015 increased annual funding for the Australian Ballet School of \$200 000 per year, to give performances at the Sydney Opera House.
  - (a) Where did this money come from? The media statement says it came from the Cultural Development Program.
  - (b) How much money is in this program?
2. What advice did the Ministry provide to the Minister for this decision?
3. Was a business case or other justification for this initiative prepared by the Ballet School, the Ministry, the Minister's Office, or anyone else? Please provide it.

**Answer:**

1.
  - (a) The funding for the Australian Ballet School was allocated from the Arts and Cultural Development Program.
  - (b) The 2015-16 budget for the Arts and Cultural Development program is \$213.981million.
2. The Department determined that the proposal met the requirements of the Guidelines, was of sound merit, and was appropriate to the organisation's remit within the sector. Supporting the project represented efficient, effective, economic and ethical use of Commonwealth funds.
3. The proposal for the funding is provided in the response to QoN 43.