

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. AE15/140**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:**

What progress has been made on the implementation of the new peer review process? How many applications have been received? In what areas? How many have been processed? How many have been successful?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

In May 2014 the Australia Council implemented a new peer assessment structure for the engagement of peers to form a panel specifically for each grant round for each art form assessment meeting.

The new structure also enables the use of panels that respond to multi-disciplinary art form applications, allowing the Council to match the skills and experience of peers to the applications submitted.

The Australia Council has a national pool of 650 peers to select from when forming assessment panels. The pool is approved by the Australia Council Board, and includes artists, arts professionals and industry experts from across Australia.

The first round of the new Australia Council grants program closed on 3 March 2015. Over 2500 applications were received across the grant categories and the assessment process for these applications is in progress. Analysis of this first round in the new grants model has commenced and the results will be available when the grant recipient list is published on 10 June 2015.