

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. BE15/072**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:**

1. The Strategic Plan states that the NFSA will create public programs over the next 3 years. How is this possible with a severely decreased public programs team post-restructure? Will a public programs team be re-hired to do this and then, if so, why were the original public programs team from Big Screen, Canberra Public Programs, Arc Cinema etc. found to be 'in excess of requirements'?
2. Why did the restructure take place before the Strategic Plan was drafted? Have there been instances where positions that were cut were replaced with very similar positions only months after? Is it correct that the Outreach Manager was cut in April 2014, finished in June 2014, and then was readvertised as Senior Manager, Community Engagement. What are the differences, if any, between those two positions?
3. Have there been discussions about the possibility of moving the NFSA HQ out of Canberra in the mid-long term? The Strategic Plan says "review existing NFSA sites in the ACT, NSW and Victoria, and develop a comprehensive site strategy for the organisation", is this what this is in reference to?
4. The Strategic Plan says that if the Government doesn't provide more funds, the NFSA will have to make further cuts, despite program cuts in 2014. In that case, what further programs will cease?

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

1. The Strategic Plan 2015-18 articulates the commitment to:
  - increase our engagement with audiences across Australia through a new range of curated public programs; and
  - deliver a three-year public program plan reflecting the diversity of the collection.

To be able to deliver on this commitment, and reflecting the decreased budget for cultural programs, the Strategic Plan 2015-18 further states the agency will seek to deliver community engagement differently. The targets for 2018 are to advance:

- meaningful and sustainable national and international partnerships with GLAMs – Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums - to increase the visibility of the collection;
- six partnerships with the three tiers of government to support ongoing program delivery to regional, remote and rural audiences; and
- partnerships with three institutions in state and territory capitals for ensuring engagement with the collection through exhibitions and access centres.

As the new three-year program is yet to be fully developed, we cannot comment on future staffing resourcing requirements. Individual staff were deemed excess to requirement as legacy programs were wound down or ceased to operate.

2. The restructure of April 2014 responded to an escalating deficit across most of our business areas due to an unsustainable number of legacy activities and programs. The restructure was to ensure medium to long-term sustainability of the NFSA and to allow us to build capacity for re-investment in the core capabilities required to meet our objectives. In June 2014 a Draft Strategic Plan for public discussion was released and stakeholder engagement on a national scale commenced.

There have not been any instances where positions that were cut were replaced with very similar positions only months after.

It is not correct that the Outreach Manager was cut in April 2014, finished in June 2014 and then was readvertised as Senior Manager, Community Engagement.

The Senior Manager, Outreach was responsible for the NFSA's Outreach sections and managed the delivery of Canberra Programs, Arc Cinema, Events & Venue Hire, and Regional Programs. This was an ongoing role.

The Senior Manager, Strategy & Community Engagement, who was appointed in June 2015, supports the Senior Executive in the development of a strategic framework for community engagement following on from the priorities developed during 2014-15 and outlined in the Strategic Plan 2015-18. It is a non-ongoing 12-month appointment.

3. There have been no discussions about the possibility of moving the NFSA HQ out of Canberra in the mid to long term.

The commitment in the Strategic Plan to "review existing NFSA sites in the ACT, NSW and Victoria, and develop a comprehensive site strategy for the organisation" is not a reference to such a move.

4. The agency will very likely respond to a further reduction in resources by focussing even more on digital and online engagement and learning experiences to ensure its resources are available to Australians across the Commonwealth. Furthermore the NFSA Strategic Plan 2015-18 makes a commitment to increasing self-generated income. The agency's commitment to developing a collaborative business case to address bulk digitisation of relevant audiovisual collections by 2025 is addressed on page nine of the Plan.