

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

Group: 2

Program: 2.1

Question No. SBE14/181

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

1. Please provide a copy of the Minister's speech that outlines the specific details of the Government's arts policy.
2. Please provide a detailed statement of the arts funding available from and provided by the Ministry for the Arts since 7 September 2013 not including funding provided by the Australia Council.
3. Please provide the guidelines for the Cultural Development Program Funding.
4. A response to a question put on notice (BE14/068) from a previous hearing stated that savings of \$33.8 million over 4 years will be achieved from uncommitted funds in the Cultural Development Program. We are also told that the Ministry was, at the time of the answer, determining what project funding was uncommitted. What project funding has been found to be uncommitted?
5. In the Portfolio Budget Statement estimates "Arts and Cultural Development" for this year and the next three years are provided. Please provide a breakdown for these figures to sub-program level.
6. What guidelines and procedures are in place for eligibility and applications for these sub-programs? What funding has been made available, and to whom, so far this financial year from "Arts and Cultural Development"?
7. How do arts organisations become aware of the discretionary funds available to them in the Ministry for the Arts, and how can they apply for them? What is the process? What are the guidelines and criteria for those grants?
8. Provide a statement of the triennial funding for the Indigenous Art Code.
9. Provide a copy of the Minister's letter to the Indigenous Art Code stating the Government's policy that the Art Code will not be mandatory.
10. Screen Australia CEO Mr Mason told the committee that no programs will be curtailed or discontinued because of the cuts to Screen Australia's funding in the Budget. How does this answer reconcile with the statement on the Screen Australia website (Taking Stock 2014/15) that there would be
 - A \$2-3 million reduction in production investment and project development programs
 - A \$500 000 decrease in funding for prints and advertising
 - A reduction of \$400 000 in Talent Escalator professional development programs
 - A transition away from funding screen resource organisations (saving up to \$1.6 million)?

11. The Australian Bureau of Statistics announced on 5 June 2014 that it would discontinue the ABS funded component of Culture, Sport and Recreation statistics (among other programs), due to cuts in its budget. What was the cost of the Culture, Sport and Recreation Statistics? Has the Ministry made estimates of the cost of replicating them?
12. What other arrangements have been made by the Ministry to ensure that statistical measurement of Australia's cultural life will continue to be collected and published?
13. What other data is the Ministry relying upon to advise government and to inform policy decisions?
14. I note that the ABS will reinstate the Culture, Sport and Recreation statistics program if funding is provided – has the Ministry considered the possibility of providing such funding?
15. Is the National Centre for Cultural and Recreation Statistics (NCCRS), previously half-funded by the ABS, continuing to operate?
16. If so, what publications has the NCCRS produced this financial year (i.e. since July 1)?
17. Is it intended that the NCCRS continue to publish the Australian Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Account? If so, when is the next publication scheduled?
18. I note that the recent meeting of cultural ministers in Alice Springs “Endorsed work to secure the continued collection of core cultural data, which will support national cultural statistics collections from 2015-16.” What work is that?
19. What representations have been received by the Minister or the Ministry from organisations which previously relied on this data? What was the content of those representations?
20. In the absence of reliable statistical data from the ABS, how does the Ministry intend to measure the extent of cultural activity in Australia, and its contribution to the wider economy?
21. The Government announced in the Budget that the back office functions of the seven Canberra national cultural institutions would be consolidated to achieve a saving of \$2.4m over 4 years. After six months consideration, what “back office functions” are to be consolidated?
22. What is the predicted schedule for takeover of functions from the institutions? 3
23. What consultation with the national cultural institutions took place before the announcement in the Budget? What consultations have taken place since the announcement?
24. I note that the Budget provided for \$1m expenditure in this financial year 2014-15 to consolidate the back office functions. What will this money be spent on? How much has been spent so far? What is the prediction for spending this financial year?
25. What are now the projected savings from the project?
26. What provision has been made for the institutions to retain revenue from their commercial activities?

27. Has the Ministry considered the Canadian experience of the National Museums Corporation, set up to provide centralised administrative functions for the major national museums in Ottawa (at the time: National Gallery of Canada; Museum of Man (later Canadian Museum of Civilisation); Museum of Nature; National Museum of Science and Technology), which eventually resulted in the formation of an extra level of approval and bureaucracy with approximately 400 staff, and was abandoned as a failure in 1988.
28. The Minister has announced a review of the federally funded opera companies - The review will examine the artistic vibrancy, engagement with audiences and financial positions of Opera Australia, State Opera of South Australia, West Australian Opera and Opera Queensland. What funding is budgeted for this inquiry?
29. What resources (secretariat, accommodation, travel, etc.) are being provided to undertake the opera inquiry?
30. What arrangements are being made for public consultation on the opera inquiry? Is there to be a discussion paper?

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

1. Please see question SBE14/003.
2. A breakdown of Arts funding available under the Arts and Cultural Development Programme is provided at Question on Notice SB14/001. Grant funding provided by the Ministry for the Arts since 7 September 2013 is reported on the Department's website:
<http://www.ag.gov.au/About/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>
3. Guidelines for the Arts and Cultural Development Programme are available from:
<http://arts.gov.au>. Links to sub-programme guidelines are provided in the response to Question on Notice SB14/001.
4. The majority of savings were from uncommitted funding in the Indigenous arts and culture programmes. The Government is currently considering future funding arrangements for these programmes to ensure they are consistent with, and complementary to, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which was introduced on 1 July 2014.
5. A breakdown of Arts funding under the Arts and Cultural Development Programme is provided at Question on Notice SBE14/001.
6. Details of grant funding provided from the Arts and Cultural Development Programme are reported on the Department's website:
<http://www.ag.gov.au/About/Grants/Pages/default.aspx>.
7. Please refer to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Hansard, 20 November 2014, pg 11 for the response to this question.
8. On 28 June 2013 the then Arts Minister agreed to provide triennial funding of \$450,000 through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support programme for the operations of Indigenous Art Code Limited, including administration of the Indigenous Art Code, in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

9. Please see question SBE14/007.
10. Mr Mason did not advise that no programmes will be curtailed or discontinued because of the cuts to Screen Australia funding in the budget. As shown in the relevant Hansard, he advised that the on-screen impact of the cuts would be minimised to the greatest extent possible. This is consistent with the 'Taking Stock' document referred to. Approximately \$1.1 million of the cuts referred to in 'Taking Stock' have a direct on-screen effect. This funding has been cut from Screen Australia's factual programming stream.
11. The total amount of funding provided to the ABS under a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013-14 was \$329,650. Half of the \$329,650 was contributed by the Australian Government and the other half was contributed by the state and territory governments. These funding commitments remain unchanged.

The ABS was required to at least match the amount contributed by the Australian and state and territory governments and provide additional resources for the collection of cultural data statistics.

The Ministry has collaborated with its state and territory counterparts to identify options for continuing the collection of core cultural data within the existing funding.
12. The Ministry is currently working with states, territories and the ABS, through the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Officials Working Group, to continue core collections within the reduced funding envelope.
13. The Ministry also uses research and analysis undertaken by the Australia Council in relation to the Australian arts and cultural sector.
14. At the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Official Working Group meeting on 9 October 2014 in Alice Springs, jurisdictions agreed to maintain their existing 2014-15 contributions to the collection of cultural data. Officials have developed options to continue collection of core cultural datasets on this basis.
15. This is a matter for the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
16. Please see question 15.
17. At this stage, the Ministry understands that the ABS will no longer produce and publish the Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Account. However, the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Officials Working Group has provided funding for the ABS to update elements of the 2008-09 Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Account relating to employment and business. The Working Group will look at options for continuing to update Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Accounts in the future.
18. At the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Official Working Group meeting on 9 October 2014 in Alice Springs, jurisdictions agreed to maintain their 2014-15 contributions to the collection of cultural data and provided in principle approval for options recommended by the Statistics Working Group to ensure the ongoing collection of core cultural data collections. The Working Group is currently exploring with the ABS options for continuing the core collection of national cultural data within remaining resources.

19. The Minister has received correspondence relating to the ABS announcement from the heads of several national arts organisations, as well as one social policy research professional. Each of the correspondents commented on the value of continuing the collection of cultural data in Australia for the purposes of planning, and policy and programme development.
20. The Ministry is currently focussed on working with states, territories and the ABS towards the continued collection of the core national cultural datasets within remaining resources.
21. Please refer to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Hansard, 20 November 2014, pg,16 for the response to this question.
22. Agencies will be transitioned to the Attorney-General's Department's Service Centre in stages. Old Parliament House was transitioned in late 2014. The National Portrait Gallery of Australia and National Film and Sound Archive will commence moving in early-to-mid 2015, with the remaining agencies to be transitioned in 2015-16. All agencies will be transitioned by 1 July 2016.
- 23-26. Please refer to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Hansard, 20 November 2014, pg 17 for the response to this question.
27. Please refer to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Hansard, 20 November 2014, pg 17-18 for the response to this question.
28. The cost of the National Opera Review will be met from existing Departmental resources.
29. Secretariat support is being provided by the Ministry for the Arts, with the assistance of the Australia Council. Travel and accommodation for official business carried out by the National Opera Review Panel are being provided as per Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/15: *Official Travel by Office Holders*.
30. Public Consultation sessions will be held in late January and early February in Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. There will be a discussion paper.