

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2009

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	24
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council – Grants book		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	118 (23/2/09)		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Are you able to provide to the committee, ideally in written form—so if you have published a book then that is ideal—an exact list of grants for 2007-08? Could you outline the recipient, the title of the project and, in particular, a relatively clear description of what the project was?

**Answer:**

The Australia Council publishes an annual *Grants List* booklet which includes all grants, grant recipients and the amount awarded. The 2007/08 booklet is attached.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	25
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Efficiency Dividend		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. How has the Australia Council implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend (ED)?
2. Where have savings been achieved – i.e. which programs/resources have been cut?
3. Has the Australia Council had to reduce any activities that it considers to be ‘core business’ or has it had to reduce service standards as a result of the ED?

**Answers:**

1. The Australia Council has applied the one-off two percent efficiency dividend to its administration costs, making a \$2 million saving from its administration budget of approximately \$19 million.
2. The savings have been achieved through a reduction in the administration budget of the Australia Council.
3. No.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	26
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Staffing		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?
2. Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
3. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? Are such employment programs being reduced? If so, by how many and has the Australia Council done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?
4. Has the Australia Council's consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?

### Answers:

1. Staffing numbers have been reduced from 150 (2006-07) to 129 (2007-08) as a result of the efficiency dividend. No other budget cuts impacted employment. All employees other than the Chief Executive Officer are employed under Section 41 of the *Australia Council Act 1975*. The Australia Council employs people in a classification structure from Bands 1 to 6 (with Band 1 being the most junior grade). All positions in Bands 5 and 6 are offered through Individual Employment Agreements (IEA) and are not differentiated into bands. Employees in Band 3 are identified in the payroll system as Band 3 employees. Individual Employment Agreements (IEA) cover all employees who would otherwise be Band 5 or 6. These employees are identified as IEA not Band 5 or 6 in the payroll system. The reduction of staff at each Band level is outlined below.

Staffing Level	Reduced	Area
Band 1		
Band 2	- 9	Administration
Band 3	-7	Program & Administration
Band 4	-2	Legal & Program
Band 5		
Band 6		
IEA	-3	Communications & Research
SES		
Total	- 21	

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2. In March 2008, the Australia Council engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct a business process review that focused on generating operational efficiency improvements. Recommendations from this review are continuing to be rolled out and this may lead to further staff reductions in the future.
- 3 . The Australia Council does not offer graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.
4. No.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	27
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Appropriation		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Noting the Government's *Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009*, which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States;

- Does the Australia Council receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Department?
- What are these?

**Answers:**

No, the Australia Council does not receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	28
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Resourcing		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Does the Australia Council have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – is the Australia Council provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?

**Answer:**

Yes. The Australia Council works closely with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), through its National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, to ensure that the ABS is aware of the Council's data needs. In 2008, the Australia Council established a Research and Strategic Analysis section to manage its research agenda.

The Australia Council is an active member of the Statistics Working Group of the Cultural Ministers Council. It also collects data on the recipients of its grants and has the capacity to commission research when required.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	29
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Finance		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Did the Australia Council use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?
2. Has the Australia Council used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?
3. Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?
4. How much has the Australia Council spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?

**Answers:**

1. No.
2. No.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	30
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council – Stimulus package		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Does the Australia Council have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package?
2. If so, was (and when was) the Australia Council asked for input before the stimulus package was announced?
3. When did the Australia Council know details about the stimulus package affecting its portfolio?

**Answers:**

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.



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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	31
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Staffing		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the current total staffing for the Australia Council – permanent and temporary?
2. What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the Australia Council on 1 July 2008?
3. How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year (CY) 2008 and in financial year (FY) 2008-09 to date? What level are these staff?
4. How many temporary positions exist or have been created in CY 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date?
5. For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

### Answers:

1. The Australia Council currently has a total staff of 123. This is made up of 48 permanent staff; 25 temporary staff; and 50 contract staff.
2. On 1 July 2008, the Australia Council's FTE staffing level was 128.8.
3. In the 2008 calendar year, 2 permanent staff at the Band 2 level and 5 permanent staff at the Band 3 level were recruited to the Australia Council. In the 2008-09 financial year to date, 2 permanent staff at the Band 2 level and 4 permanent staff at the Band 3 level were recruited to the Australia Council.

All staff other than the Chief Executive Officer are employed under Section 41 of the *Australia Council Act 1975*. The Australia Council employs people in a classification structure from Bands 1 to 6 (with Band 1 being the most junior grade).

4. In the 2008 calendar year, 21 temporary positions were created. In the 2008-09 financial year to date, 15 temporary positions have been created.
5. In the 2008 calendar year, 13 employees commenced employment on contract with an average length of 28.6 months. In the 2008-09 financial year to date, 14 employees have commenced employment on contract with an average length of 29.1 months.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	32
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Underspending		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year?
2. How many of the Australia Council's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year and what are they?

**Answer/s:**

1. The Australia Council has no programs tracking for an underspend this financial year.
2. The Australia Council has four budget measures lapsing in this financial year. They are funding for the Books Alive program, funding to Melba Recordings, funding for small to medium arts organisations and funding provided to the Territory Symphony Orchestras.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	33
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Gershon Review		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. What impact will the Gershon Review have on the Australia Council?
2. How much money will be saved?
3. Will the Australia Council be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?

**Answers:**

1. The Gershon Review does not apply to the Australia Council, as it is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.
2. Not Applicable.
3. Not Applicable.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	34
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Media Monitoring		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008?
2. How much has been spent on media monitoring in FY 2008-09 to date?
3. How many staff in the Australia Council are employed for media related duties?

**Answers:**

1. The Australia Council spent \$48,791 on media monitoring in 2008.
2. The Australia Council has spent \$41,526 on media monitoring to date in 2008-09.
3. The Australia Council has four staff employed with media, communications and marketing duties as part of their duty statements.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	35
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Communications		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What communications programs has the Australia Council undertaken, or is planning to undertake?
2. For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs).
3. What was the total spend on advertising by the Australia Council in CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?

### Answers:

1. The Australia Council is undertaking communication programs in relation to its 2009 grant programs and to communicate the national impact of the Australia Council. It will also undertake communication programs in relation to Books Alive 2009 in September 2009 and the Venice Biennale in June 2009.
2. The estimated total spend for the 2009 grants program is \$43,500. This includes \$15,000 for print publication, \$28,500 for website development and complementary advertising placed in *Australian Literary Review* as part of a sponsorship arrangement. The estimated total spend for a public relations contractor to communicate the national impact of the Australia Council is \$35,000. The estimated total spends for communications for Books Alive 2009 and the 2009 Venice Biennale have yet to be finalised.
3. The Australia Council's total advertising spend was \$203,634 for the 2008 calendar year and \$50,949 for the 2008-09 financial year to date. Note that these figures include \$172,565 on recruitment advertising in the 2008 calendar year and \$34,186 in the 2008-09 financial year to date.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	36
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Hospitality		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Australia Council's hospitality spend for CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?
2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

### Answers:

1. The Australia Council spent an estimated \$76,324 on corporate hospitality during the 2008 calendar year and has spent an estimated \$33,496 in the 2008-09 financial year to date.
2. Five corporate events were held in 2008:
  - Writers Emeritus Awards presentation at State Library of Victoria on 12 February 2008 – \$3,953
  - Visual Arts Emeritus Award and Medal presentation at the Australia Council offices on 5 March 2008 – \$4,000
  - Don Banks Music Award presentation at Bennetts Lane, Melbourne on 27 March 2008 – \$2,000
  - Community arts award presentation at Australia Council offices on 3 April 2008 – \$8,000
  - Indigenous arts and culture awards presentation at Sydney Opera House on 30 May 2008 – \$17,221

There have been two corporate events in 2009 to date:

- Community arts award ceremony and key producer exhibition at the Australia Council offices on 4 March 2009 – estimated costs to date \$4,400
- Don Banks Music Award held at Bennetts Lane, Melbourne on 24 February 2009 – estimated costs to date \$4,250.

In addition to these corporate events, the Australia Council also provides basic working lunches and catering for board and other stakeholder meetings at an estimated average cost of approximately \$287 per day or \$26 per head. In the 2008 calendar year, the estimated costs for these events were \$41,150. In the 2008-09 financial year, the estimated costs to date of these events is \$24,846.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	37
<b>Output:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council		
<b>Topic:</b>	Australia Council - Freedom of Information		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

1. Has the Australia Council received any advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Australia Council received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answers:**

1. The Australia Council has not received any external advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests since July 2008. However, it has an internal process and publication available to all staff dealing with responding to FOI requests. Annual workshops on dealing with FOI requests are also held for staff.
2. In 2008-09, the Australia Council has received three FOI requests to date.
3. Three requests have been granted.
4. None.

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**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 38  
**Output:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Australia Council  
**Topic:** Australia Council - Consultancies  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

### Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
2. Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the consultancy, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.
3. How many consultancies are planned or budgeted for this calendar year?
4. Have these been published in the Australia Council's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website? If not, why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

### Answers:

1. The Australia Council has undertaken 29 consultancies since November 2007.
2. A summary of these consultancies is provided in the table below:

Name of Consultant	Subject matter	Duration	Cost	Method of Procurement
SGC Consulting	Economic analysis of literary publishing in Australia	January 2005 – December 2008	\$64,302	Open Tender
AEC Consulting	Anticipating Change in the Performing Arts Sector	1/4/07 to 30/1/07	\$87,534 plus GST	Select tender
KPMG	Key Organisations risk management workshops	December 2007 and February 2008	\$25,793 plus GST	Direct source based on expertise and previous work
Matrix on Board	National financial skills workshops for arts organisations	Late 2007 and intermittently through 2008	\$17,475 plus GST	Select tender



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<b>Name of Consultant</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Method of Procurement</b>
Australia Business Arts Foundation	2008 national Key Organisation business planning workshops	January - February 2008	\$5,481 plus GST	Select tender
Clouds of Joy Pty Ltd	Marketing and Sponsorship presentations for Key Organisation business planning workshops	January - February 2008	\$3,902 plus GST	Select tender
Australian Graduate School of Management	Undertake discovery project for Major Performing Arts Board companies executive management training program	7/1/09 to 31/3/08	\$18,000 plus GST	Open tender
Ipsos Eureka Social Research Institute	Undertake a user satisfaction survey	31/1/08 to 21/4/08	\$70,000 plus GST	Open tender
Tapper Consulting Pty Ltd	Marketing training for performing arts companies	1/3/08 – 4/7/08	\$12,000 plus GST	Appointed by invitation based on knowledge of consultant market availabilities and skills.
Hirano Pty Ltd	An international market development report on China and South Korea	6/5/08 – 31/10/08	\$15,000 plus GST	Select Tender
Justin Mcdonnell	An international market development report and 3 year strategy for performing arts in North and South America	8/5/08– 31/3/09	\$50,000	Select tender

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<b>Name of Consultant</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Method of Procurement</b>
Luke Nestorowicz	Marketing Audit of Sydney Dance Company	15/5/08 to 6/6/08	\$3,000 plus GST	Appointed by invitation based on knowledge of consultant market availabilities and skills
PG Policy Consultants	Evaluation of the Orchestras Review 2005 Funding Package	1/6/08 to 30/9/08	\$20,000 plus GST	Appointed by invitation based on knowledge of consultant market availabilities and skills.
LECG Limited	Evaluation of the Orchestras Review 2005 Funding Package	1/7/08 to 30/9/09	\$137,714 plus GST	Open tender
Jenny Cook	Research into pathways for orchestral conductors and musicians	28/8/08 – 28/10/08	\$25,000 plus GST	Select Tender
Diane Ragsdale	Artistic vibrancy consultancy for the Major Performing Arts sector	16/10/08 – 28/10/08	\$10,000	Appointed by invitation based on knowledge of consultant skills.
Diane Ragsdale	Artistic Vibrancy	October 2008	\$15,000 plus GST	Appointed by invitation based on specialist international knowledge.
Judith James Consultancy Pty Ltd	Workshop and development of Key Producers marketing plan	October 2008 – February 2009	\$12,264 plus GST	Select tender

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<b>Name of Consultant</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Method of Procurement</b>
Australian Graduate School of Management	Implement Major Performing Arts Board companies executive management training program	30/11/08 to 20/11/09	\$60,000 plus GST	Open tender
Watchdog Compliance Pty Ltd	Drafting of ACCC compliance code for Indigenous Australia Art Commercial Code of Conduct	November 2008 – March 2009	\$44,000	Select Tender
Justin Mcdonnell (Anzarts Institute Ltd)	Investigation of best practice for future support processes and mechanisms for contemporary music theatre in Australia	22/12/08 – 30/4/09	\$50,000	Select Tender
University of Wollongong	Mapping literature infrastructure in Australia	2008	\$16,000	Direct Source
PWC	Business process review	2008	\$75,000	Direct Source
PWC	Business intelligence project stage 1	2008	\$12,000	Multiple quotes
Justin Mcdonnell (Anzarts Institute Ltd)	Theatre Sector in the Northern Territory	2008	\$29,642	Select Tender
KPMG	Financial analysis of Third Funding Model Review for the Major Performing Arts companies	23/2/09 – 1/5/09	\$91,215	Open Tender
Ripe Online Pty Ltd	Theatre forum on-line registration	1/3/09 – 17/5/09	\$16,000 plus GST	Select tender
Angharad Wynne-Jones	Curate theatre forum	1/3/09 – 17/5/09	\$10,000 plus GST	By invitation based on industry expertise
Megafun Productions	Produce theatre forum	1/3/09 – 17/5/09	\$26,000 plus GST	Select Tender

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The total value of the consultancies listed above is \$1,022,322.

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3. Five consultancies are planned or budgeted for this calendar year
4. No. The Australia Council has not established an Annual Procurement Plan (APP) as it is not subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act). As a consequence, the Australia Council has not published an AAP on the AusTender website.