



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts



Senator A McEwan
Chair
Senate Standing Committee Environment, Communications and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McEwan

On 27 May 2009 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts for the 2009-10 Budget Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing, Senator Birmingham asked a number of questions relating to funding for the Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO) which appear on ECA 8 of the transcript. In response to the questions, I indicated that the AYO funding of \$0.97 million was over three years as it is historical that we have tended to fund the AYO on a triennial basis. I also indicated that some of the AYO's funding will terminate and some is ongoing.

I wish to clarify that in 2006-07 the Australian Government committed to provide the AYO with an additional \$1.88 million over four years for the purpose of strengthening its training programs, reserves and triennial international touring program. AYO's reserves will be stabilised by 2009-10, however, the new funding of \$0.97 million over three years from 2010-11 will extend the support for AYO's training programs and triennial international touring program. This funding was provided through the 2009 Budget to ensure that AYO can commence the necessary planning for its 2011 programs.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Bean
First Assistant Secretary
Arts Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

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