

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

Answers to questions on notice

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

Budget Estimates, May 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	118
<b>Program:</b>	5.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Australia Council for the Arts		
<b>Topic:</b>	Orchestra salaries		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	126 (25/5/10)		

**Senator FISHER asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—How does that sit? You have not substantiated for me the increase in costs but there has been public speculation that there is a gap between the increase in costs and the level of indexation. What is your comment on that?

**Mr Grybowski**—Again, it is well reported that the fixed costs of orchestras because of the large costs associated with employing the musicians on a full-time basis is—

**Senator FISHER**—People?

**Mr Grybowski**—People, yes, are rising at a level greater than the other income lines, including the government funding, are increasing.

**Senator FISHER**—Many industries and many businesses talk about the salary discrepancies that in the case of businesses they are finding themselves having to pay in states where wages are higher but in the case of the workers themselves, of course, they bemoan the lower salaries paid to them in the other states. Is that a similar sort of trend experienced by orchestras? There is a suggestion that there is something like a 40 per cent gap, which does seem rather significant. If it be so is that a fair ballpark assessment? In terms of salaries paid is the gap as big as that between lowest and highest in an average sense?

**Mr Grybowski**—I have not got the specific figures in front of me, so I will take that question on notice. The salaries of the different orchestras do vary across the country.

...

**Senator FISHER**—Is there a further review potentially looking at the competitiveness of wage rates across orchestras?

**Mr Grybowski**—Not that I am aware of, no.

**Answer:**

The gap between the highest and lowest paid salaries for an experienced ensemble musician is currently \$40,217, or 41.2% which is a comparison between the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (\$97,428) and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (\$57,211).

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<b>Topic:</b>	Artistic works KPIs		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	128 (25/5/10)		

**Senator FISHER asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—Yes. I have questions around KPIs. For the Australia Council, itself, you have said you are achieving your KPIs. Are you on target for the KPI for new artistic works created?

**Ms Keele**—We are right at the end of our year. I cannot tell you off hand where we are with it, but I would be fairly sure that we are close. I cannot tell you off the top of my head.

**Senator FISHER**—Can you tell me how many new artistic works have been created?

**Ms Keele**—No, I cannot.

**Senator FISHER**—Can you do that on notice?

**Ms Keele**—Of course.

**Senator FISHER**—What about artistic works exhibited, performed and published?

**Ms Keele**—I will take that on notice. We can take all of these on notice.

**Senator FISHER**—What about attendances at your supported activities?

**Ms Keele**—Yes.

**Senator FISHER**—On notice?

**Ms Keele**—Yes

**Answers:**

Number of new artistic works created: 4,355

Key Performance Indicator (KPI): 4,500

Number of artistic works exhibited, performed and published: 8,321

Key Performance Indicator (KPI): 420

Number of attendances at supported activities: 10.6 million

Key Performance Indicator (KPI): 9 million

Please note: These figures are preliminary estimates. Actual numbers for the 2009–10 year will be available upon release of the Australia Council for the Arts Annual Report 2009–10 in October 2010.