

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 2.1 – Arts and Cultural Development
Topic: Efficiency dividend impact – Australia Council's grants program

Senator: Senator Humphries

Question reference number: 67

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Question:

CHAIR: Before you do, Senator Humphries, can I just follow on with some questions in relation to those grants? I think it would be helpful for the committee, Mr Eccles, if you could outline to us the sorts of grants that will be fulfilled with that \$10 million. Can you outline the program?

...

Ms Basser: Yes. There is \$10 million going to funding that will support young and emerging artists. The new program will support up to 150 additional artistic works, presentations and fellowships. It will also assist artists with a disability, artists from non-English-speaking culturally-diverse backgrounds, and artists in regional and remote areas. The Australia Council is at the moment working out the exact development of the program guidelines and that sort of thing. But that is the broad—

...

Senator HUMPHRIES: Is it also possible that some organisations that receive an increase under this program could also simultaneously receive a decrease in funding, in real terms, by virtue of the efficiency dividend impact on the Australia Council's grant program?

Ms Basser: I think that is a matter for the Australia Council in terms of how they are working that out. It is early days in terms of them working out what the program guidelines are going to be.

Mr Eccles: The final details on how it is going to be administered are being sorted through at the moment. We can take that on notice.

Answer:

The efficiency dividend will not affect the Government's \$10 million commitment for up to 150 additional artistic works, presentations and fellowships artists' grants.

In its current budget for 2011-12 the Australia Council expects to increase grants to organisations, other than for major performing arts organisations, by 0.7 per cent.