

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM123

Topic: FOI requests

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December

Number of pages: 4

- a) Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?**
- b) How many FOI requests has the Department received?**
- c) How many have been granted or denied?**
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?**
- e) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?**
- f) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?**

Answer:

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Australia Council

- a) In responses to FOI requests, the Australia Council relies on the Freedom of Information Guidelines prepared by the Australian Government Solicitor on behalf of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet as at 9 October 2009.
- b) The Australia Council has received 4 requests.
- c) Three FOI requests have been granted in full and one granted partly.
- d) None.
- e) Not applicable.
- f) Not applicable.

National Film and Sound Archive

- a) No.
- b) None.
- c) One request (received before this period) was granted; none was denied.
- d) None.
- e) No.
- f) No.

National Gallery of Australia

- a) No.
- b) One request was received.

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- c) The request was withdrawn.
- d) None.
- e) Not applicable.
- f) Not applicable.

National Library of Australia

- a) Advice has been sought and received from the then Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on procedural matters.
- b) None in the last three financial years.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.
- e) No.
- f) No.

National Museum of Australia

- a) The National Museum of Australia has not received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests.
- b) The National Museum of Australia has not received any FOI requests in 2010.
- c) None.
- d) None.

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e) No.

f) No.

Screen Australia

a) Yes. Screen Australia sought advice from AGS on responding to FOI requests on two occasions.

b) Since its inception on 1 July 2008, Screen Australia has received 12 valid FOI requests.

c) Five have been granted in full or in part; one has been refused. The others have either lapsed, been withdrawn or are still pending.

d) None.

e) No.

f) No.