

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australia Council

Additional Estimates 12 February 2013

Question: 122

Topic: Funding to *Quadrant* magazine

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 134

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ: Yes, that is fine. I am assuming we can deal with the Australia Council here on the literary grants. Let us cut right to the chase. Who can assist with the funding, or lack of, to *Quadrant*?

Ms Christie: I can.

Senator ABETZ: Thank you very much. Can we be told what the total amount is for these grants that are given for literature each year for these publications?

Ms Christie: I am sorry; I do not have the detail of the grants for the literary publication.

Senator ABETZ: All right. If you can take that on notice.

Answer:

Magazines and journals are eligible to apply in three grant rounds: Program Grants, Publication Grants and Key Organisations. The total allocation of funding for magazines and journals varies each year according to Board assessment of each application. In 2012-13, the Literature Board will be allocating approximately \$520,000 towards magazines and journals.

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Question: 123

Topic: Number of copies of *Meanjin* sold

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 135

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Senator ABETZ: Can I tell you: at arm's length from the Australian taxpayers as well who have shown their support for *Quadrant*, and other organisations that do not have that sort of readership, do not have that sort of support base in the Australian community and seem to get bucket loads of money. *Meanjin*, for example, sells how many copies per edition? Can you tell me that?

Ms Christie: No, I cannot, I am sorry.

Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice for us and let us know why that particular literary magazine (*Meanjin*) is a key organisation which gets triennial funding.

Answer:

To be eligible for a grant, a magazine/journal must have sales/subscribers of at least 500 copies per issue. This information is provided as proof of eligibility but is not a criterion for assessment.

All funding applications, supporting materials and acquittal materials, including subscription numbers, are submitted to the Literature Board in confidence and are not released to the public.

Following a competitive Expression of Interest process from the Literature Board in 2010, *Meanjin* was invited to submit an application to be considered a Key Organisation.

Meanjin was successful in this process along with three other literary magazines/journals: Griffith Review, Australian Book Review and Overland.

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The following Key Organisation criteria were used by the Literature Board, which is made up of industry peers, to assess all applications:

- The quality of the proposed three-year program and the opportunities it provides for professional development of Australian writers;
- Effective management of resources, with an achievable three-year plan that includes strategies for building resources and diversifying income;
- Evidence of a high level of achievement and leadership in the development of programs to support and promote Australian writers and Australian literature; and
- The calibre of the personnel involved in the organisation and proposed program.

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Question: 124

Topic: Assessment Criteria used by Literature Board

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 135

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Ms Christie: Again, that is based on the competitive assessment processes that are set up and managed very carefully by the Australia Council to ensure the principles of fairness and at arm's length decision making....I think it is important that we actually look at the assessment criteria that are used. Some of the points that you are making, Senator, may or may not be part of the assessment criteria that are used for this particular grant. I cannot answer the question, I am sorry.

Senator BACK: Senator Abetz, before you go on to that - Ms Christie, you might be able to come back to the committee and give us some advice on those criteria?

Ms Christie: I will submit that.

Answer:

Applications for Program Grants are assessed by the Literature Board against the following criteria:

- a high quality of proposed activities for one year;
- effective management of resources, with an achievable one-year plan that includes strategies for building resources and diversifying income;
- evidence of the organisation's thorough planning and the ability to carry out the proposed program to a high standard; and
- evidence of a high level of achievement and leadership in the development of programs to support and promote Australian writers and Australian literature.

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Question: 125

Topic: Australian Book Review

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 134

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ: No. Thank you, Senator Back. It is a great suggestion. The Australian Book Review has received special funding for a number of years in exchange for a pledge to review all significant Australian published, I understand the term is, trade books. It does not mean anything to me but I understand that is the jargon in the trade, in literature and other humanities. Is it actually living up to that undertaking?

Ms Christie: Again, I would have to take that question on notice because it is a specific matter for the Literature Board.

Senator ABETZ: My advice is that it is not. Then the question is whether they will continue to enjoy their elevated funding. Yes, take that on notice as well.

Ms Christie: I will.

Answer:

The Australian Book Review is funded as a Key Organisation 2011-13. In this category there is no criterion which requires the journal to review all significant Australian published trade books.

The criteria for Key Organisations are as follows:

- The quality of the proposed three-year program and the opportunities it provides for professional development of Australian writers;
- Effective management of resources, with an achievable three-year plan that includes strategies for building resources and diversifying income;
- Evidence of a high level of achievement and leadership in the development of programs to support and promote Australian writers and Australian literature; and
- The calibre of the personnel involved in the organisation and proposed program.

Funding is granted towards fees for contributing writers and journal costs.

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Question: 126

Topic: Literary Grants Funding

Asked By: Senator ABETZ

Type of Question: RRA&T 134

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ: It will not take you long, will it? It is \$20,000, which is 50 per cent of what they got previously. Can I ask how many applications were received from publications for the 2012-13 year?

Ms Christie: Again, that is a matter for the Literature Board of the Australia Council. They consider a lot of grants in the meeting. I can certainly provide you with all of that information.

Answer:

In 2012-13, the Literature Board received 14 applications from magazines and journals. These applications were made to the Program and Publishing grant categories.

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Question: 127

Topic: Media Releases on Australia Council Website

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

On 11 February 2013, the Prime Minister released a media statement entitled "*Gotye creates history at Grammys*". This statement mentioned the Australia Council once in the fourth paragraph.

- a. Why does this media statement appear on the Australia Council website in the section which otherwise exclusively hosts only media statements by the Australia Council?
- b. Who took the decision to post the Prime Minister's media statement in this section?
- c. On how many occasions has the Australia Council uploaded media statements from the Prime Minister, or Minister for the Arts, on the Australia Council website section entitled "media releases":
 - i. In the two weeks after 30 January 2013.
 - ii. In the two weeks prior 30 January 2013.
 - iii. In the four weeks prior 30 January 2013.
 - iv. In the eight weeks prior 30 January 2013.
 - v. In the 12 weeks prior 30 January 2013.

Answer:

- a. As the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body, the Australia Council republishes government media releases and statements when relevant and noteworthy.
- b. The media statement was uploaded to website by the Australia Council's Digital Content Officer who manages website content.

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c.

- i. 2
- ii. 0
- iii. 0
- iv. 0
- v. 0

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Question: 128

Topic: Funding for Literary Journals

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 3

Concerning the funding of literary journals by the Australia Council:

- a. For each of the financial years 2007-08 to 2015-16, please provide the total Australia Council funding, or projected funding, to literary journals for all projects and purposes.
- b. For each of the financial years 2007-08 to 2015-16, please provide the total Australia Council funding, or projected funding to:
 - i. Australian Author
 - ii. The Australian Book Review
 - iii. The Australian Poetry Journal
 - iv. Cordite
 - v. Griffith Review
 - vi. Island
 - vii. Kill Your Darlings
 - viii. Mascara
 - ix. Meanjin
 - x. Overland
 - xi. Peril
 - xii. Quadrant
 - xiii. Right Now
 - xiv. Southerly
 - xv. Voiceworks
 - xvi. Westerly
 - xvii. Seizure

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Answer:

The following table contains details about funding for all literary magazines and journals in the years 2007-08 to 2015-16. This funding comes from program, project and key organisation categories. Please note that no decisions have been made for funding for literary journals and magazines from 2013-14 onwards.

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	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Australian Author	-	-	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000
Australian Book Review	\$100,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,806	\$116,848
Australian Poetry Journal	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$14,850	\$70,538	\$18,500	\$18,370
Cordite	\$7,220	\$9,020	\$9,000	\$11,050	\$9,510	\$13,190
Griffith Review	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,350	\$50,804
Island	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$40,000
Kill Your Darlings	-	-	\$0	\$9,600	\$12,000	\$14,700
Mascara	\$2,500	\$4,657	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
Meanjin	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,420	\$60,964
Overland	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,420	\$60,964
Peril	-	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,660
Quadrant	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$20,000
Right Now	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,000
Southerly	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
Voiceworks	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$25,000	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$38,000
Westerly	-	-	-	-	\$18,000	\$14,300
Seizure	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$6,000
Total	\$326,720	\$431,677	\$431,850	\$540,688	\$523,006	\$522,300

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Question: 129

Topic: Projects Funded Under the Broadband Arts Initiative

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

On 3 September 2012, the Australia Council announced the first round of projects to be funded under the Broadband Arts Initiative. Of those successful projects:

- a. What requirements does the Australia Council place on acknowledging the source of the grant?
- b. Will any project be required to use the words: "*National Broadband Network*" or "*NBN*" in acknowledgement of the grant?
- c. Specifically, how will each of the successful projects acknowledge the grant?

Answer:

- a. Grant recipients are required to include a prominent acknowledgment in all the Project promotional material and publications, whether electronic or print, as follows: 'This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.'
- b. No.
- c. I refer the Senator to our response to part a).

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Question: 130

Topic: Electricity Expenses for the Australia Council

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

In response to Questions on Notice 40 and 41, October 2012, the Australia Council reported a substantial increase electricity expenditure.

- a. Has the Australia Council been compensated by the Commonwealth for this increase?
- b. How much did the Australia Council spend on electricity in 2011-12?
- c. How much does the Australia Council estimate it will now spend on electricity in 2012-13?
- d. From where will the Australia Council find the additional funds required to pay for this increase?
- e. To what does the Australia Council attribute this increase in electricity cost?
- f. Did the Australia Council have in place energy saving measures prior to June 2012?
 - i. Please detail the energy saving measures in place prior to June 2012.
- g. What impact does the Australia Council expect an increase in the cost of electricity will have on the performance and creation of art by the independent artists, and community based organisations it provides grant funding to?

Answer:

- a. No
- b. \$141,823.81
- c. The Australia Council expects current usage levels to be maintained.
- d. The Australia Council's operating budget changes year to year, electricity is included in that budget.
- e. This is a matter for the electricity supplier.

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- f. Yes. The Australia Council had in place a Green Council Committee, which raised the awareness of and promote environmental sustainability with the Australia Council. The Green Council implemented measures including installing auto-timer-switches on air-conditioning in meeting-rooms with discrete air-conditioning systems and placing signage in meeting rooms to encourage staff to turn off lights when leaving the room.
- g. Artists' programs are separate to operating budgets.
The Australian Government's national cultural policy 'Creative Australia' was released on 21 March 2013 with \$235 million in funding for arts and culture.