

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport**

**Budget Estimates 24 May 2012**

**Question: 92**

**Topic: Review of the Australia Council**

**Asked By: Senator BRANDIS**

**Type of Question: RRA&T 80**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Senator BRANDIS:** Ms Keele, the review was released on 15 May, nine days ago. You have got until 8 June. About a third of the time that you have got to prepare a response has already passed. Your board has had a meeting since the review was released last Friday and you still do not know the process by which or whether the artform boards will have—

**Ms Keele:** Right now the process does not include meeting and getting input from the boards.

**Senator BRANDIS:** You still do not know whether each of the artform boards will have an opportunity to respond?

**Ms Keele:** Correct, I do not know. I would be happy to go and find out from the chair what the plan is, but right now I just cannot answer the question.

**Senator BRANDIS:** If you do not know, you do not know. I find that very surprising. Other than the council and whichever artform boards end up getting the opportunity to participate in this response, what other consultations is it proposed to undertake?

**Ms Keele:** This is a comment time, not a consultation time. The consultations, as I mentioned earlier, have happened. As individuals, anybody can make a comment on this review. As I understand it, the Australia Council governing board is considering its response. We are not considering going back out for consultation. As we understand it, whatever is accepted by the minister and proposed to go forward does require consultation. That is how I see this being handled. Does the department have anything to add to that?

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**Senator BRANDIS:** Do not worry about that because I am not asking the department. I find it alarming that the only engagement in formulating a response to this review, which was profoundly critical of the existing structure of the Australia Council, is at board level—

**Ms Keele:** Well, it is—

**Senator BRANDIS:** With, as it seems to me, no at least methodical attempt to canvass the views of the artform boards, which, if the review were given effect to, would be abolished.

**Ms Keele:** I am happy to take that on notice and pass it back as something we should add to the process. I honestly do not know right now.

**Answer:**

The Chair of the Australia Council, Mr James Strong AO, wrote to the Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP, on 1 June 2012 in response to the Australia Council Review report. This response was developed by the Governing Council, which is made up of representatives from across the artform boards and arts practices.

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**Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport**

**Budget Estimates 24 May 2012**

**Question: 93**

**Topic: Canberra Symphony Orchestra Funding**

**Asked By: Senator MILNE**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2012**

**Number of pages: 2**

1. How much Federal funding does the Canberra Symphony Orchestra receive?
2. How does this compare with the amount the Council funds symphony orchestras in other capital cities?
3. Will the Australia Council consider reallocating funding to the Canberra Symphony Orchestra so that it gets a more equitable share of orchestra funding?

**Answer:**

1. In 2012, Canberra Symphony Orchestra received \$100,700 annual funding.
2. The state orchestras, all of which are members of the Major Performing Arts Board, had funding levels determined by the Major Performing Arts Inquiry and subsequent orchestral reviews.

Currently those funding levels are:

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Adelaide Symphony Orchestra           | \$6,353,777  |
| Melbourne Symphony Orchestra          | \$9,888,516  |
| Orchestra Victoria                    | \$4,848,308  |
| Queensland Symphony Orchestra         | \$7,067,486  |
| Sydney Symphony Orchestra             | \$10,326,304 |
| Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra          | \$5,987,808  |
| Western Australian Symphony Orchestra | \$6,528,803  |

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The annual funding to each territory orchestra is at the rate previously determined by the Australian Government.

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Canberra Symphony | \$100,700 |
| Darwin Symphony   | \$203,934 |

Australian Government funding for the territory orchestras began in 2005-06 when a commitment of \$400,000 over four years was made to each of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Darwin Symphony Orchestra, as part of the Orchestras Review funding package, to enhance the territory orchestras' artistic standards and to improve links with the state symphony orchestras.

In 2007-08, the then Government committed an additional \$100,000 ongoing annual funding to the Darwin Symphony Orchestra. The 2009-10 Budget approved \$100,000 funding for each territory orchestra for 2009-10 only. The 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statement for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio indicated that the Australia Council's appropriation included funding of \$200,000 per annum ongoing for the territory orchestras.

3. Funding for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra will remain at the level agreed to by the Government.