**Recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into the impact of the 2014 and 2015 Commonwealth Budget decisions on the Arts**

**Recommendation 1**

5.8 The committee recommends that the government develop and articulate,

in consultation with the arts sector, a coherent and clear arts policy, including

priorities for arts funding supported by evidence-based analysis, and greater

clarity about the respective roles of the Ministry for the Arts and the Australia

Council, as well as the other statutory arts bodies.

**Recommendation 2**

5.15 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government restore

to the Australia Council the full amount of funds diverted from it in the 2014

MYEFO and 2015 Budget, ensuring it has the level of resourcing identified as

necessary to implement in full its 2014 strategic plan over the current financial

year and the four-year forward estimates.

**Recommendation 3**

5.21 The committee recommends that, should the Commonwealth government

be unwilling or unable to identify new and additional funds for the arts portfolio

to support the Catalyst Arts and Culture Fund, the Catalyst fund be disbanded,

and the funds presently allocated to it be returned to the Australia Council.

**Recommendation 4**

5.22 The committee recommends that, should the Catalyst fund proceed, the

Ministry for the Arts further develop and clarify how the Catalyst fund will:

• complement (and not duplicate) the role of the Australia Council;

• ensure small-to-medium organisations will be prioritised, whether through

a quota or some similar system; and

• ensure the spread of funds across the year, given that the funding program

exists on a first-in-first-served basis.

**Recommendation 5**

5.25 Should the Catalyst fund proceed, the committee recommends that, in

order to reduce bureaucratic duplication and ensure the integrity of funding

decisions, the peer review register and process presently maintained by the

Australia Council also be used for assessing applications to Catalyst.

**Recommendation 6**

5.28 The committee recommends that the government provide emergency

transition funds in 2016 to assist small-to-medium organisations and individual

artists who have been immediately impacted by these changes. These funds need

to come from outside the existing arts funding envelope.

**Recommendation 7**

5.30 The committee recommends that the Ministry for the Arts work with the

Australia Council, the state and territory governments and the arts sector to

develop and implement streamlined and coordinated grants processes and

timelines, to the greatest extent possible, in order to minimise the administrative

burden on applicants seeking funding from different bodies and programs.

**Recommendation 8**

5.33 The committee recommends that the Australia Council give careful

consideration to how it may particularly prioritise support to individual artists in

its funding programs, in recognition of their exclusion from the Catalyst fund.

**Recommendation 9**

5.34 The committee recommends that the Australia Council give consideration

to the viability of re-launching a specific program for the development of earlycareer

individual artists, along the lines of the highly successful ArtStart

program which was abandoned following the 2015 Budget.

**Recommendation 10**

5.38 The committee recommends that, without compromising principles of

qualitative and merit-based assessment, the Ministry for the Arts, the Australia

Council and other funding bodies continue to work with the states and territories

toward increased equity in arts funding between the states and territories, and

between urban, regional, rural and remote communities.

**Recommendation 11**

5.40 The committee recommends that the government and the Council continue

ensuring that support for Australia's arts takes full advantage of the spectacular

diversity of our artists and audiences, and that the diversity of Australian artists

and people is included and represented in decisions about arts funding, including

on assessment panels.

**Recommendation 12**

5.42 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government reverse

the funding cuts to Screen Australia imposed in the 2014 Budget, and refrain

from implementing further cuts to film and television funding over the forward

estimates.

**Recommendation 13**

5.46 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government restore

a program for funding innovation and development in interactive gaming,

whether through reinstating the Australian Interactive Games Fund previously

managed by Screen Australia, or through another appropriate government

entity.