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Update: Minister Fifield announces changes to arts funding arrangements

20 March 2017

Dear Member,

LPA Members may be aware that the Minister for the Arts, Senator Mitch Fifield, announced changes to funding arrangements for the arts portfolio over the weekend (18 March 2017).

A total of \$80.2 million over four years in committed and uncommitted funds will be transferred to the Australia Council from 2017-18. This includes:

- **\$61M** in uncommitted Catalyst funds (including \$32M previously announced in late 2015)
- **\$12M** in Catalyst grants already allocated now to be managed by the Australia Council
- **\$7.2M** for the Major Festivals Initiative and funding for the Australian World Orchestra

You can read the full Media Release from Minister Fifield [here](#).

LPA Chief Executive Evelyn Richardson spoke to media over the weekend, stating that while we welcome the announcement it may be "too little too late." She noted that the funding amount returned is "not the full amount that was taken from the Australia Council and the Australia Council is still not funded sufficiently in our view. We are concerned that significant damage has already been done. We also want to know what the bigger picture plan was for stabilising the sector."

You can read media reports on the new funding arrangements [here](#).

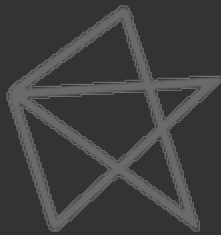
LPA is currently seeking further details from the Department. We will keep Members updated as new information becomes available.

LPA continues to strongly advocate for government support of the small to medium sector and our industry more broadly. Most recently, LPA provided a pre-Budget submission calling for funding that was cut from the Australia Council to be returned and for greater investment in our industry. You can read the submission [here](#).

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the **LPA Policy Team** via [email](#) or call (03) 8614 2000.

Kind regards,

Evelyn Richardson
LPA Chief Executive



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