

Dear Senate Committee members,

My name is Daniel Portelli, I am a composer from Western Sydney, currently completing a PhD at Huddersfield University in the UK.

I am writing to inform you that I am opposed to Minister Brandis setting up of the National Program for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA) with \$104.8 million appropriated from the Australia Council.

This proposed NPEA is not a fair system, and will be harmful for the arts, especially for those in the small, independent and medium arts sectors. Australia Council is already under funded so further cuts will only be detrimental to the grass roots of Australian music and the arts, one that is rich in diversity, flourishing with ideas, and the backbone of innovation.

Australia Council is a trusted and respected arts funding body, mainly due to the absence of ministerial involvement. By removing funds you are cutting out the potential to reach new audiences and the chance to inspire the next generation. It reduces opportunities to those in low socio-economic areas, severely lessening the chances of artist to develop their craft and bring new ideas forward. Something that is all part of the fabric and integrity of Australian music (or any countries integrity) both on a national and international level.

I strongly urge you to cancel all plans to remove funds from the Australia Council to setup the NPEA.

Yours Sincerely,

Daniel Portelli

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