



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2017-18

MR WALL MLA (CHAIR), MS CODY MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR COE MLA, MS LE COUTEUR MLA, MR PETERSSON MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2017-18 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 6 JUNE 2017

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 9 June 2017**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

The Childers Group

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Michael White 0481063599 / [REDACTED]

3. Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

The Childers Group advocates for the arts in the ACT region.

The Childers Group is committed to the long-term viability and vitality of the arts. A key part of our role is advocating support for the arts to governments at all levels, and engaging with the private sector, educators, the media and the broader community about the value of the arts.

4. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes* (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey.)

No

5. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2017-2018 (you can expand on these in Question 6):

**If completing this form electronically, simply double click the Yes/No field and choose "checked" to insert a cross.*

- a. The Childers Group strongly advocates that the increase of an extra \$750,000 per year for the ACT Arts Fund that was committed to by ACT Labor during the recent election process be allocated in the 2017-2018 Budget.

- b. There is also an ongoing need to provide increased RESOURCING for the arts in the ACT. Costs for Key Arts Organisations to manage ACT Arts Facilities under license with government are increasing at a rate above CPI, and this should be reflected in an increase in recurrent funding to major arts facilities.

Failure to keep up with the cost of building management puts downwards pressure on staffing and program resources, threatening long-term sustainability and compromising the ability of these organisations to fulfil their vision of providing arts activity and services that respond to community need.

- c. While it is crucial to recognise the immense direct contribution that arts and culture makes to the quality of life in the ACT, it is also important to factor into strategic whole of government planning, their broader social and economic impact. Through their central role in content creation, arts and culture are inextricably linked to ACT creative industries, which in turn sit at the heart of the knowledge economy of the future. As such they have an important part to play in fostering innovation and fuelling a clever and inventive society in which good design plays a central role in industry, urban environments and public policy. Currently, the arts are not adequately integrated within policymaking or service delivery at a whole of government level. For comparison, there are existing strategic objectives to achieve ‘higher than average participation in sport and physical and recreational activities’.

No such strategic objective has been stated for the Arts. Cultural Tourism would appear to be an obvious inclusion given the strategic importance and economic benefits of cultural tourism to the region.

The Government should commit to incorporating clear Strategic Objectives for the Arts and Cultural sector within the ACT Government’s Budget Objectives.

Establishing links between Government Directorates to maximize arts development in the ACT and region.

In line with ACT Government strategic priorities of enhanced livability and social inclusion, suburban renewal and health and education investment, the role of the arts in these areas should be recognised with the establishment of officer positions in ACT Government Directorates, including Education and Training, Health, Environment and Planning, and Capital Metro, at the Senior Officer Grade 3 level, to identify and implement strategies where arts activity can multiply existing value and enrich outcomes. In the first instance, this should be a 3-year initiative.

Establishing and consolidating existing links between artists, arts organisations and the stakeholders of each Directorate should be a key component of the work. For example, engagement in the arts throughout a child’s schooling, including early childhood, has immeasurable benefits which are now both quantifiable and proven in countries that have invested in strong arts programs within their schools.

6. Please provide details of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

a. The Childers Group welcomes the additional \$750,000 as “base line funding” into the Project Funding category of artsACT to give it certainty each year. We particularly acknowledge the commitment (\$100,000 per year for 4 years) to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Culture. The funding for arts events is also welcomed.

b. The Childers Group is dissapointed that (it would appear) that the Budget only delivers a CPI increase in funding for our Key Arts Organisations. The commitment to better arts facilities across the Territory is important infrastructure developments. (Belconnen Arts Centre expansion, upgrades to other arts centres, CMAG and canberra Theatre upgrade.)

c. The Childers Group would like to have seen clear stated Stategic Objectives for the Arts and Culture included withinh the ACT Government Budget Objectives. We would also have liked to have seen a commitment to establishing links between Government Directorates to maximise arts development in the ACT and Region.

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7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee’s attention?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

8. Did you provide a pre-budget submission to the ACT Government for 2017-18?

Yes (go to question 9) No (go to question 10)

9. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No Partially

a. If no/partially, please comment

As above for Question 6

10. Does your organisation/group wish to be considered to provide its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 16 June 2017, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 14 June 2017 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all interested groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
