



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2015-16**

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MS MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), DR CHRIS BOURKE MLA, MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA

**COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY**

**SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE  
ACT BUDGET 2015-16**

**PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 2 JUNE 2015**

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to [committees@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:committees@parliament.act.gov.au) by **12.00pm Friday 5 June 2015**. 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:**

Evol McLeod Co-coordinator



**3. 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 and analysis.)

No No

**4. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2015-2016 (you can expand on these in Question 5):**

1. *enhancing liveability and opportunity* – Stability of the arts and cultural sector in the ACT and region. It requires consistent investment in artists, arts facilities, their operations and skilled personnel
2. *making Canberra healthy and smart*. Through fostering community well being and inclusion in creative arts and cultural programs for all Canberrans

3. Fair and appropriate wages for ACT arts workers', commensurate with their skills and experience, will ensure that the National Capital attracts qualified people with the necessary expertise to manage Canberra's arts and cultural facilities and services. The Childers Group has raised this with the ACT Government over several years and notes that without increased investment the sector will fall well behind other states.

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

Yes Yes       No

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

On page 25 of the Budget Statements there appears to be a reduction of \$200K in government outputs in 2015/16 arts budget. We would like to query this apparent reduction in arts funding. The Childers Group's key concerns are:

- since 2005 the ACT Arts Fund administered by artsACT has not been increased beyond CPI – this means that the Fund is unable to provide the support required by the city's key arts organisations, which in turn means the ability for the ACT community to engage with the arts is being severely limited;
- the lack of Arts Fund growth also leads to the inability of arts organisations to attract skilled personnel and then retain staff over the long-term; and
- Strategic and long-term investment in our arts organisations and artists is *essential* for a smart and healthy modern city. Canberra deserves *consistent* investment in its arts sector.

5. **Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?**

Yes YES (go to question 8)     No (go to question 9.)

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

Yes       No NO

a. **If yes, please comment**

7. **Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 12 June 2015, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.**

Yes YES       No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee decides to invite you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 10 June 2015 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.