



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy

In relation to: artsACT and Grant Funding - Artist Eligibility

Hearing: 04/08/2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 6-7

Transcript provided: 05/08/2026

Answer Due: 12/08/2026

Ms Teresa Comacchio took on notice the following question(s):

MR EMERSON: Okay. Perhaps you could take on notice in the last financial year how many artists applied and were excluded because they wanted to put—they needed to use some of the funding to put on an exhibition and a space funded by the government. But I suppose to your point, that will not cover all of the scenarios because there is certainly a perception among artists that they are ineligible in which case they are not going to apply. And perhaps if you can with that question just lay out very clearly what the policy is in terms of I suppose from a government perspective it might be seen as double dipping but I do not think that is how artists or the arts organisations are seeing it.

Ms Comacchio: Yes. I will take that on notice.

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Arts funding managed by artsACT is one of the main ways the ACT Government provides direct support to the arts.

Funding supports individual artists, arts organisations and community groups delivered through five categories including ACT Arts Organisation Investment funding, and Arts Activities funding. The full list of categories is available on the ArtsACT website arts.act.gov.au/funding

Arts Organisation Investment funding supports eligible arts organisations to deliver programs and services that contribute to the objectives of the Arts Organisation Investment Program. Arts Activities funding provides support for individual artists, groups and organisations to undertake specific arts activities, such as creating new work, professional development, public presentation and community arts projects.

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The Arts Activities Guidelines provide that Arts Activities funding requests cannot include the direct operational or program costs of an organisation funded through the Arts Organisation Investment Program, including funding to put on an exhibition and a space funded by the government.

Two applications were received in the Arts Activities Up to \$5,000 category who were assessed as being ineligible for funding as their applications included gallery hire costs at an arts organisation that was receiving ACT Government funding.

No applications were received in the Arts Activities \$5,000 to \$50,000 category that were ineligible on this basis.

artsACT is unable to identify any artists who may not have chosen to apply for Arts Activities funding due to these eligibility requirements.

All applicants are encouraged to thoroughly read the Arts Activities Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions, and to speak with artsACT staff before making an application.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date: 13-8-26

By the Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy, Michael Pettersson MLA