Department of Infrastructure under Released

FOI

From: TODD, Alison

Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 5:29 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: Adrian Collette

Subject: Re: Update following staff meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you

OFFICIAL

From: "\$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) < creative.gov.au>

Date: Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 5:14:25 pm **To:** "TODD, Alison" < <u>Alison.TODD@arts.gov.au</u>>

Cc: "Adrian Collette" < adrian.collette@creative.gov.au >

Subject: FW: Update following staff meeting

Hi Ali,

Sharing with you a message that has been sent to staff this afternoon, please note that it includes some messages that staff can speak to about the review. This message was sent to and reviewed by Board members prior to sending to staff.

Best, s22(1)(a)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Head of Public Affairs

Office of the CEO

T: +61 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) **M:** +61 s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009

contact us | follow us creativepartnerships.gov.au creative.gov.au

We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and honour their Elders past and present. We respect their deep enduring connection to their lands, waterways, and surrounding clan groups since time immemorial. We cherish the richness of First Nations Peoples' artistic and cultural expressions

From: Adrian Collette <adrian.collette@creative.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 4:47 PM **Subject:** Update following staff meeting

Dear colleagues,

I wanted to send a note to thank everyone for attending the staff meeting yesterday. It was a very difficult conversation to have, but equally a very important one, to hear and acknowledge everyone's views. What was clear, was the pain of a decision like this on our whole organisation and the communities of which we are a part.

ano

As a distributor of public funding on behalf of the Australian Government to support Australia's creative and artistic ambitions, the Board of Creative Australia has an obligation to ensure its work and decisions are consistent with its statutory obligations, as well as its social licence to represent all Australians.

The Board and I recognise and acknowledge that the events of the last two weeks have caused deep disappointment in Australia's artistic and cultural community of which we are all a part.

Creative Australia is an advocate for artistic freedom and is not an interpreter of artistic expression however these fundamental principles must always be considered with Creative Australia's wider obligation to all Australians.

Sadly, in the current environment people and communities are being caught up in narratives that mischaracterise and attach labels that cause deep harm and distress. In these times we are seeing that institutions are also extremely vulnerable to mischaracterisation. For organisations such as ours that are charged with managing public funding, public trust is essential, without it we would compromise our ability to deliver our functions.

The next steps from here which you can share with your contacts and stakeholders:

- That the Board has resolved to commission an immediate, independent, external review. The review will look at the whole governance process for the 2026 Venice Biennale and recommend any changes considered necessary.
- The Board is working to appoint a reviewer and will announce who will conduct the review as soon as possible.
- The Board will consider the recommendations of the review and take steps as necessary to ensure that the governance and processes for decision making for the Venice Biennale are appropriately robust.

It is important to reiterate that the Board does not wish to disrupt the vital work that Creative Australia delivers for artists through the grants programs that we run.

As we work through the next few weeks, I encourage you to continue to raise any issues or concerns that you have with your manager, you can also email me directly. Alongside all, the Executive will be meeting regularly as we work through this evolving situation, and we will ensure that your voices are heard. We will also cascade updates as they happen.

I have confidence in the resilience of this organisation, and the dedicated people who work here, to manage through this. It's a fine and difficult balance: we have a sector to support and a large number of important programs to deliver. I know that we will pull together to continue to support to the sector.

Kind regards, Adrian.

Adrian Collette AM

Chief Executive Officer
Office of the CEO

T: +61 2 $^{\text{s22(1)(a)(ii)}}$ **M**: +61 $^{\text{s22(1)(a)(ii)}}$

adrian.collette@creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009 contact us | follow us creativepartnerships.gov.au creative.gov.au

From: TODD, Alison

Friday, 21 February 2025 11:48 AM s22(1)(a)(ii) Sent:

To:

FW: Background points [SEC=OFFICIAL] **Subject:**

Venice Biennale 2026 background points.DOCX **Attachments:**

OFFICIAL

TPs are on the final page

Venice Biennale 2026 Artistic team

Key issues

• The Board of Creative Australia recently announced its decision not to proceed with the artistic team for the Venice Biennale 2026.

Background

Venice Biennale 2026 Artistic team announcement

- On 7 February 2025 Creative Australia announced the 42nd artistic team to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale 2026, Khalid Sabsabi (artist) and Michael Dagostino (curator).
- Following the announcement articles appeared in the media relating to Mr Sabsabi's previous work including video installation titled *You* (2007), depicting Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and video *Thank You Very Much* (2006), depicting planes hitting the Twin Towers in New York.
- On 13 February 2025 Liberal Senator Claire Chandler, Shadow Minister for Science and Arts and Shadow Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs raised in question time to the minister representing the Prime Minister, Senator Wong, why the government is "allowing a person who highlights a terrorist leader in his artwork to represent Australia on the international stage at the Venice Biennale?"
- On 13 February 2025 the Board of Creative Australia released a statement announcing its decision not to proceed with the artistic team chosen for the Venice Biennale 2026 stating that:
 - "Creative Australia is an advocate for freedom of artistic expression and is not an
 adjudicator on the interpretation of art. However, the Board believes a prolonged and
 divisive debate about the 2026 selection outcome poses an unacceptable risk to public
 support for Australia's artistic community and could undermine our goal of bringing
 Australians together through art and creativity"
- On 14 February 2025 the shortlisted artists and curators for the 2026 Venice Biennale issued a statement to the Board of Creative Australia in support of the winning artistic team and asking for them to be reinstated.
- Media reported on 17 February a Creative Australia spokeswoman said "it had resolved to commission an immediate, independent, external review of the 2026 Venice artistic selection process to recommend any changes considered necessary".
- Media has reported resignations of Creative Australia staff including Mikala Tai, Head of Visual Arts and Tahmina Makinyar, Project Manager, Venice Biennale.
- On 16 February, Lindy Lee posted a statement on Instagram announcing her decision to step down from the board of Creative Australia. The department has not received any formal notification of the resignation and the department is advised the Minister has also not received any notification.

Selection process

Creative Australia is the commissioner of the Australia Pavilion and the producer of the
Australia at the Venice Biennale project, which incorporates the exhibition within the Pavilion, a
suite of professional development programs for Australian creative and cultural workers, and a
co-investment program that garners support and advocacy for the project.

- The 2026 artistic team was selected by Creative Australia, based on an open Expression of Interest process and the advice of a panel of five independent industry advisors including national and international visual arts experts.
- The industry advisors were Mariko Smith (Yuin and Japanese curator), Elaine Chia (arts professional), Wassan Al-Khudhairi (curator of Hawai'i Triennale), Dunja Rmandić (Director Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery) and Anthony Gardner (independent curator and academic).
- A total of six artistic teams were shortlisted in the two-stage open call process:
 - O Dhopiya Yunupinu (1950 2024, artist) with Tony Albert and Sally Brand
 - O Hayley Millar Baker (artist) with Erin Vink
 - o James Nguyen (artist) with Anna Davis
 - o Jenna Mayilema Lee (artist) with Tina Baum
 - o Mel O'Callaghan (artist) with Tamsin Hong
 - Khaled Sabsabi (artist) with Michael Dagostino
- The department was notified by Creative Australia of the artistic team on 31 January 2025 and Creative Australia notified the Minister on 31 January 2025.

Creative Australia

- Creative Australia is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity established by the *Creative Australia Act 2023* (the Act). The Australia Council Board of Creative Australia is the accountable authority.
- Creative Australia is accountable to the Australian Parliament and to the Government through the Minister for the Arts.
- The Act prevents the Minister of the day from directing Creative Australia in relation to particular grants to artists and arts organisations.

Talking Points:

- Creative Australia's decisions are made at arm's length from Government, guided by peer and industry assessment.
- The *Creative Australia Act 2023* prevents the Minister of the day from directing Creative Australia in relation to particular grants to artists and arts organisations.
- Consistent with the requirements of the *Creative Australia Act 2023*, the Minister was not involved with the selection of the artist.
- The Board of Creative Australia, as the accountable authority, decided not to proceed with the artistic team chosen for the Venice Biennale 2026.
- This is a matter for Creative Australia.

Department of Infrastructure FOI Act 1982 by the Released under the

FOI

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2025 12:17 PM

To: Arts - DLO Burke; \$22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: For visibility - open letter from previous curators of Venice Biennale [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks can you pls draft a min reply for this one.

OFFICIAL

From: Arts - DLO Burke <dlo.burke@MO.arts.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2025 11:55 AM

Cc: Arts - DLO Burke <dlo.burke@MO.arts.gov.au>

Subject: For visibility - open letter from previous curators of Venice Biennale [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning s2

For your visibility, Please see below open letter received from curators of previous Venice Biennales.

I have included @s22(1)(a)(ii) for departmental visibility as well.

Thank you

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer • Office of the Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Home Affairs

Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Minister for Cyber Security

Minister for the Arts

dlo.burke@mo.arts.gov.au

M s22(1)(a)(ii)

Suite MG 43, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

From: APH Website contact form < contactform@aph.gov.au > On Behalf Of egmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:40 AM

Page 7 of 23

To: Burke, Tony (MP) < Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au>

Subject: APH Website contact form - new enquiry - s47F @gmail.com)

Parliamentarian Name	Hon Tony Burke MP s47F			
Telephone (work)	s47F	_		
	s47F			
Email	s47F	@gmail.com		
Address	s47F			

Question

OPEN LETTER TO THE CREATIVE AUSTRALIA BOARD AND CEO FROM THE CURATORS OF AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS VENICE BIENNALES

Creative Australia is for the artist. Creative Australia is for us all. —creative.gov.au/about-us

Creative Australia was established to 'uphold and promote freedom of expression in the arts' and 'to support Australian arts practice that reflects the diversity of Australia'. Today these defining words have a hollow ring, at odds with our prior understanding of the role of Australia's peak arts body.

We join our artist colleagues and supporters from the arts sector to express our dismay and disillusionment at Creative Australia's abrupt, unexplained and unprecedented reversal of its decision to award artist Khaled Sabsabi and curator Michael Dagostino the opportunity and honour to present their project at the 2026 Venice Biennale in the Australia Pavilion.

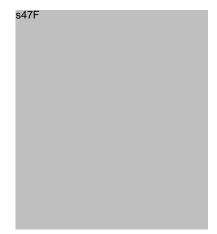
As previous curators of the Australia Pavilion we stand in wholehearted support of our colleagues Khaled and Michael. The decision by the Creative Australia Board and CEO undermines the reputation of both artist and curator, and by extension casts a shadow over the selection process and those who have participated in it.

We are stunned that in these fraught times, the Creative Australia Board and CEO took no time to defend their decision against uninformed comments on Sabsabi's early works by those who had not even seen them. Rather than fostering civil discussion of complex subjects, their reactive move has inflamed a polarised debate.

We call for the reinstatement of Khaled and Michael's invitation so that they may fulfil their proposal in Venice. We further request a transparent account of the processes of selection, invitation and withdrawal.

All of us are deeply concerned about the impact of this decision on the Australian arts community and its government partner Creative Australia. It puts the future of the Australian presentation at the Venice Biennale into question, erodes the respect and international recognition of Australian art accrued by mutual efforts over decades, and threatens the principle of artistic independence.

Curators		
s47F		



From: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 10:11 AM

To: TODD, Alison

Subject: FW: Urgent Reinstatement of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino – Venice Biennale 2026

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s47F @wsaa.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 28 February 2025 4:31 PM

Subject: Re: Urgent Reinstatement of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino – Venice Biennale 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22(1)(a)

Thanks for replying on behalf of the Minister. WSAA Working Group and I would be pleased to meet with you at 11am on Friday the 7 March.

The working group comprises:

, Western Sydney Creative, Western Sydney University

S47F Campbelltown Arts Centre
S47F Penrith Performing & Visual Arts
S47F Arts & Cultural Exchange
S47F The Lee Kelly Placktown Arts

The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre

Would you like me to send a meeting invitation, or is it protocol for you to? If so, I will send though contact details early next week.

Kind regards,

s47F

ewsaa.com.au

Sent: 28 February 2025 15:06

To: s47F @wsaa.com.au>

Subject: FW: Urgent Reinstatement of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino - Venice Biennale 2026

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s47F}

Thank you for your request to meet with Arts Minister Tony Burke. The Minister is unable to meet. However I can meet with you on his behalf.

Are you available for an online meeting at 11am Friday 7 March?

Thanks

20

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser

s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)

mo.arts.gov.au

Office of Tony Burke MP

Member for Watson | Minister for Home Affairs | Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Minister for Cyber Security | Minister for the Arts | Leader of the House of Representatives | acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters where I live and work. | I pay my respects to their culture, and their Elders past and present.

From: s47F @wsaa.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 8:15 AM

To: Burke, Tony (MP) < Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au >

Subject: Fw: Urgent Reinstatement of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino - Venice Biennale 2026

Dear Minister

Please find attached a letter from the members of the Western Sydney Arts Alliance regarding the withdrawal of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino as the artistic team for the 2026 Venice Biennale.

The members look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

s47F

s47F

Western Sydney Arts Alliance (WSAA)

E: S4/F @wsaa.com.au

WSAA acknowledges the people of the Dharug, Gundungurra and Dharawal Nations who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we tell stories and whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land.

Important Notice: The content of this email is intended only for use by the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email by mistake, please advise the sender and delete the message and attachments immediately. This email, including attachments, may contain confidential, sensitive, legally privileged and/or copyright information.

Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. The Department of Home Affairs, the ABF and the National Emergency Management Agency respect your privacy and have obligations under the Privacy Act 1988.

Unsolicited commercial emails MUST NOT be sent to the originator of this email.

Jepartment of

FOI

From: TODD, Alison

Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 3:38 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: Notes from meeting with WSAA Working Group 11am on Friday the 7 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s2

Notes from meeting with representatives from the WSAA Working Group 11am on Friday the 7 March

Attendees

- s47F , WSAA Advocacy for the Arts in Western Sydney
- s47F , Western Sydney Creative, Western Sydney University
- s47F , Arts & Cultural Exchange (Parramatta)
- s47F , The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre (Arts Centre and Culture Precinct and First Nations Arts hub in Penrith)
- s^{22(1)(a)(ii)}, Arts Adviser
- Ali Todd, Office for the Arts

WSAA – represents 42 orgs in western Sydney

- Wanted to reinforce concerns outlined in their letter to the Minister, and restate concerns, about Creative Australia's decision to rescind offer to Venice Biennale artists and the impact on Western Sydney arts and the community.
- Raised concern with the lack of communication from CA, lack of a fair & equitable process for the artists and the lack of confidence from the sector now with Creative Australia.
- Arts and culture are vital to western Sydney. The impact of the artists being chosen was very
 significant and had a very positive impact on the community. Toll of decision has impacted the
 western Sydney arts, safety in western Sydney is now also impacted including on creative learning
 social cohesion and education.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

- requested action from the federal government to investigate the actions of the CA Board and want a directive issued from the Minister.
- Also requested facilitation of a meeting with CA.
- Called for the reinstatement of the artists.

s22(1)(a)(i

thanked attendees for their honesty and feedback. Acknowledged that it was a very difficult time and that the Minister is aware of the issues raised.

Ali agreed to convey their request for a meeting with CA.

Page 13 of 23

Alison Todd (she/her)

Assistant Secretary • Arts Development & Investment • Office for the Arts

Alison.Todd@arts.gov.au

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS

arts.gov.au **(f)** (in) **(c)**

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

From: \$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 4:41 PM

To: TODD, Alison

Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) Adrian Collette

Subject: Draft release

Attachments: Draft Review Release.docx

Importance: High

Official: Sensitive

Dear Ali,

Please find attached a draft release that we are preparing for release this Friday afternoon (14 March 2025). We plan to send to the media that have been following this story and publish on our website.

Best, s22(1)(a) (ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) Head of Public Affairs

Office of the CEO T: +61 $02^{\frac{s22(1)(a)(ii)}{1000}}$ M: +61 $\frac{s22(1)(a)(ii)}{1000}$

s22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009

contact us | follow us

creativepartnerships.gov.au

creative.gov.au

We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and honour their Elders past and present. We respect their deep enduring connection to their lands, waterways, and surrounding clan groups since time immemorial. We cherish the richness of First Nations Peoples' artistic and cultural expressions

Official: Sensitive

Draft re review announcement

Appointment of Blackhall and Pearl

The Australia Council Board of Creative Australia has appointed governance advisory firm Blackhall and Pearl to conduct the review into the governance and decision-making process for the Venice Biennale 2026.

The terms of reference for the review are to:

- Review the governance and decision-making processes and procedures undertaken by Creative Australia, including its Board, by which the artistic team was selected to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale 2026 and associated decisions.
- Review the relevant policies, processes and procedures related to the end-toend selection process for the Venice Biennale 2026.
- In undertaking the review, the consultant will focus on:
 - Developing constructive, practical recommendations for the Board and management to ensure robust policies, processes and systems are in place for future selection processes.
 - Identifying any interpretations, misunderstandings or failings in the approach taken; and
 - Identifying any gaps or weaknesses in the underlying governance, discovery, risk, and decision-making processes that contributed to the approach taken.

The review will be conducted over the coming months. The Report findings will be made available to the Australia Council Board of Creative Australia upon completion of the review. The Board will then consider the findings and share the outcomes.

Blackhall and Pearl is a specialist provider of governance and risk advice to Boards across Australia, including government agencies, listed companies, superannuation funds and national not-for-profit, community, and member-based organisations.

The scope of Blackhall and Pearl's review does not extend beyond the terms of reference. It will consider, as far as practicable, the perspectives of all those with a material role in the governance and decision making.

From: \$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 4:52 PM

To: TODD, Alison s22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: Letter from the Senate Committee and draft reply

Attachments: FW: Environment and Communications Committee - Additional Estimates 2024-25 -

Correspondence from the Committee ; Draft response to Chair of Senate Committee March

2025.docx

Hi Ali,

Please find attached email received with attachments from the Senate Committee, together with our draft reply, which is due on Friday 14 March 2025.

Best, s22(1)(a)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Head of Public Affairs
Office of the CEO

T: +61 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) **M:** +61 s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009

contact us | follow us creativepartnerships.gov.au

creative.gov.au

We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and honour their Elders past and present. We respect their deep enduring connection to their lands, waterways, and surrounding clan groups since time immemorial. We cherish the richness of First Nations Peoples' artistic and cultural expressions

Department of Infrastructure by the under Leleased

FOI

From: Adrian Collette <adrian.collette@creative.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 12:31 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(iii)

Subject: FW: Environment and Communications Committee - Additional Estimates 2024-25 -

Correspondence from the Committee

Attachments: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Committee to the CEO of

Creative Australia.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Colleagues,

Sending to you for reply.

With thanks

Adrian

Adrian Collette AM

Chief Executive Officer
Office of the CEO

T: +61 2 ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)} **M:** +61 ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)} adrian.collette@creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009

2009

contact us | follow us

creativepartnerships.gov.au

creative.gov.au

Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 12:17 PM

To: Adrian Collette <adrian.collette@creative.gov.au>

Cc: Committee, EC (SEN) <ec.sen@aph.gov.au>; \$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au>;

parliamentary@infrastrucutre.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(iii) creative.gov.au>

Subject: Environment and Communications Committee - Additional Estimates 2024-25 - Correspondence from the

Committee

Some people who received this message don't often get email from thea.armstrong@aph.gov.au. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside Creative Australia. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mr. Collette,

Please find attached correspondence from the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee regarding your appearance at the Additional Estimates 2024-25 held in February 2025.

Should you need to correct any of the evidence provided, I have included an example of how to do so, from an agency within your portfolio.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii) | Administrative Officer

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

Phone: (02) s22(1)(a) www.aph.gov.au/senate

I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.



THE SENATE

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Mr Adrian Collette AM Chief Executive Officer Creative Australia

by email: Adrian.collette@creative.gov.au

cc: parliamentary@infrastrucutre.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au

7 March 2025

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—Additional Estimates 2024-25

Dear Mr Collette,

I write on behalf of the committee regarding evidence that you provided to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (the committee) at the recent hearings for Additional Estimates 2024-25.

As part of your evidence given on 25 February 2025, you stated that in relation to the termination of the contracts of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino, this was formally communicated at 4.30 pm on 25 February 2025 (see page 108 of the <u>Committee Hansard</u>).

It has subsequently been brought to the committee's attention that on Khaled Sabsabi's Instagram account, he states that "At 6.02pm 25 February 2025 Creative Australia formally notified the intention to cancel the contracts of artist Khaled Sabsabi and curator Michael Dagostino" (see post for reference).

The committee is seeking from you an explanation of this discrepancy, and a correction of the record if necessary.

Could you also review the Hansard transcript of Creative Australia's appearance on 25 February 2025 to confirm that other evidence given was correct.

To enable the committee to consider this issue in a timely manner, the committee is seeking a response from you regarding the evidence given. The committee requests that you provide your response by 14 March 2025.

This correspondence and any response received will be published online as part of the committee's estimates proceedings.

Please contact the Committee Secretary, \$22(1)(a)(ii) , on 02 s22(1)(a)(ii) , if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Karen Grogan Committee Chair





Level 5 60 Union St Pyrmont, Sydney P +61 (0) 2 9215 9000

ABN:38 392 626 187

Date: 14 March 2024

Senator Karen Grogan Chair Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Grogan,

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—Additional Estimates 2024-25

Thank you for your letter dated 7 March 2025 regarding my evidence on 25 February 2025 to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (the committee) at the hearings for Additional Estimates 2024-25.

I would like to correct the record regarding the timings of when termination of service agreement letters were sent to Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino.

I write to advise and confirm that the letters were sent by email at 6.02pm on 25 February 2025. In answering the question at the committee hearing I was recalling the time in which I had intended the letter to be sent, which was 4.30pm, it was in fact sent from my office a short time later that same evening.

Many thanks indeed for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

DRAFT

Adrian Collette AM Chief Executive Officer

creative.gov.au

From: TODD, Alison

Sent: Thursday, 13 March 2025 2:52 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii) cc: s22(1)(a)(iii)

Subject: Re: Letter from the Senate Committee and draft reply [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yes that's a good idea and happy to be cc'd

From: "\$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au>

Date: Thursday 13 March 2025 at 2:51:57 pm **To:** "TODD, Alison" < <u>Alison.TODD@arts.gov.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Letter from the Senate Committee and draft reply [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Many thanks Ali, would you recommend that we copy in the MO when we send?

Best, s22(1)(a)

From: TODD, Alison <Alison.TODD@arts.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 13 March 2025 2:48 PM

Subject: RE: Letter from the Senate Committee and draft reply [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside Creative Australia. Be cautious, particularly with links and attachments.

OFFICIAL

No issues from my point of view,

Thanks

Ali

OFFICIAL

From: \$22(1)(a)(ii) < \$22(1)(a)(ii) creative.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 4:52 PM **To:** TODD, Alison <Alison.TODD@arts.gov.au>

Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) < s22(1)(a)(ii) arts.gov.au>

Subject: Letter from the Senate Committee and draft reply

Hi Ali,

Please find attached email received with attachments from the Senate Committee, together with our draft reply, which is due on Friday 14 March 2025.

Best, s22(1)(a) (ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Head of Public Affairs
Office of the CEO

T: +61 02 $^{\text{s22(1)(a)(ii)}}$

M: +61 s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

creative.gov.au

Creative Australia

Level 5, 60 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW 2009
contact-us | follow-us
creative-gov.au
creative.gov.au

We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and honour their Elders past and present. We respect their deep enduring connection to their lands, waterways, and surrounding clan groups since time immemorial. We cherish the richness of First Nations Peoples' artistic and cultural expressions

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on +61 (2) 6274 7111 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.
