

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Creative Industries
Witness:	Claire Febey, CEO of Creative Victoria
Committee Member:	Jade Benham
Page/s of transcript:	pp. 8-9

Relevant text:

Jade BENHAM: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Minister. Budget paper 3, page 149, shows that funding for portfolio agencies is dropping by \$97.5 million, or 17 per cent, compared to the revised figure for last year. What has been cut?

Colin BROOKS: I am just trying to look at the budget paper reference.

Jade BENHAM: Budget paper 3, page 149.

Colin BROOKS: There is actually more base funding for our creative agencies this year. We recognised that coming out of COVID agencies were operating in a complex environment. Some of them were operating above their budget, so we have set their base budgets this year at a slightly higher level to provide adequate funding for them to do their job. I think you will find –

Jade BENHAM: But the revised figure for 2024–25 is \$569 million.

Colin BROOKS: I will hand over to the Secretary.

Claire FEBEY: Thank you. I am happy to take the job of Secretary, thank you! Well, maybe not. I think that you are comparing the actual for this year versus the target for next year. Is that right?

Jade BENHAM: Yes, correct.

Claire FEBEY: It would be more accurate to compare the target for this year with the target for next, because the actual will include obviously things that come up throughout the course of a financial year, but also, where the agencies have positive and perhaps higher than expected revenue outcomes, that would also be captured in that figure.

Jade BENHAM: Okay. So what is exactly the reason then for the higher actual figure than the 2024–25 budget? The 2024–25 budget was \$410 million and the actuals are \$569 million.

Claire FEBEY: As I have just described, if there are allocations made throughout the financial year for operational reasons or purposes and then also because that figure captures own-earned revenue, and there were some really positive revenue outcomes that the minister has talked about in this financial year – for example, the exhibitions that were very successful would contribute to that total amount.

Jade BENHAM: Yes. Can we guarantee that there are no essential services or programs being cut – nothing being cut from the portfolios?

Colin BROOKS: Our agencies do a fantastic job. They will continue to do a fantastic job – sorry, I found the reference you were talking about – and as the CEO has just said, the base

funding for the creative agencies is going from \$410 million to \$471 million, so there is an increase in their base funding. It is important as well, in terms of the increase in base funding, to understand that it gives them certainty over the forward years to understand what that funding level is so they can plan to run programs into the future.

Nick McGOWAN: Can we get a breakdown of the unanticipated additional revenue and/or other funding that you received that is causing that blip? Is that possible?

Claire FEBEY: Yes. Let me take it on notice and see what we can provide.

Answer:

The additional revenue that makes up the difference between the 2024-25 target and the 2024-25 expected outcome in Table 2.16 (Budget Paper 3, p 149) will be reported in the agencies' 2024-25 annual reports, which are proposed to be tabled in October.