



**Australian Government**

**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Assistant Secretary**

PDR ID: MC19-009061

Jennifer O'Connell  
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Dear Ms O'Connell

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2019 to Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, concerning the Morrison Government's recently announced departmental restructures. I am responding on behalf of the Minister.

As part of the Government's reform agenda to put Australians at the centre of Government, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the new Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

This Department will consolidate the current Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development, and the current Department of Communications and the Arts.

The new structure will drive greater collaboration on important policy challenges to deliver better services for the Australian people.

These changes increase opportunities for synergies, and for the thinking of people in the arts area of the Department to influence the thinking of people working on regional development and infrastructure, and vice versa.

Some members of our arts community are concerned about what the name of the new Department means for the arts.

There is no change to the Morrison Government's strong commitment to the arts following the departmental restructures announced this week.

The dedicated and committed officials working on arts policy will move across from the former Department to the new Department. They continue to have the same responsibilities and the same resources.

Minister Fletcher remains the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, with no change to his Ministerial title or responsibilities representing the arts in Cabinet.

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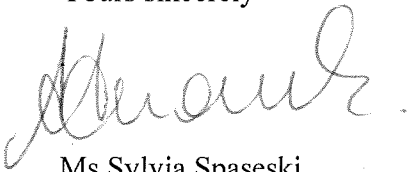
UNCLASSIFIED

There is no change in the funding committed to the arts portfolio - some \$749 million in 2019-20.

There is also no change to the role and funding of the Australia Council, Screen Australia or other important arts and cultural institutions.

Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



Ms Sylvia Spaseski  
Arts Development and Investment

8 January 2020