

Salamanca Arts Centre – Funding

Mr BAYLEY question to MINISTER for ARTS and HERITAGE

My question is from Joe and Margaret, leaders in the arts sector, with roles at the Salamanca Arts Centre. The Salamanca Arts Centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The vision of past premiers Bill Neilson and Jim Bacon in allocating the Salamanca buildings to the centre and investing in the arts will be part of those celebrations. The Salamanca Arts Centre buildings are heritage-listed and owned by the Tasmanian Government, and past governments have contributed to the annual upkeep of the buildings. Acknowledging a painfully extracted one-off contribution to replace the faulty lift, there is no longer an annual contribution for upkeep.

Why has the government ended its commitment to making an annual contribution to the upkeep of the Salamanca warehouses at the Salamanca Arts Centre? How does the government expect a grassroots arts centre to be able to keep up with the annual obligations of maintaining a heritage-listed sandstone complex in the heart of Hobart's heritage and tourism district? Also, can you please detail the funding delivered to the Salamanca Arts Centre for building maintenance over the last 14 years?