

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Additional Information

2018-19 Budget Estimates May 2018

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 64, 24/5/2018

Topic: 2018-19 Budget Estimates

Senator Deborah O'Neill asked:

Secretary, would you please take me through the Department's budget expenses for outcome 1. For your reference, the document I'm referring to is table 2.1.1 on page 22 of the PBS.

Answer:

Please see below a breakdown of the Department of Communications and the Arts' budget expenses for Outcome 1.

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Table 2.1.1: Budgeted Expenses for Outcome 1

Program 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services (PBS page 22)

	2017-18 Estimated actual	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Forward estimate	2020-21 Forward estimate	2021-22 Forward estimate	Recipient and Comments
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Cadetship Program and Scholarship Program	-	5,200	5,200	-	-	
<i>Regional and Small Publishers Cadetship Program</i>	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	200 regional and small publishing journalist cadetships over 2 years
<i>Regional Journalism Scholarship Program</i>	-	1,200	1,200	-	-	60 scholarships over 2 years for regional students to study journalism
Community Broadcasting Program	21,590	19,492	19,750	20,049	16,339	Community Broadcasting Foundation is funded to provide funding to community radio and television broadcasters to support development and broadcasting of content.
Consumer Representation Grants Program	2,261	2,296	2,324	2,367	2,409	The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) is funded to represent the views of consumers on communications issues.
Digital Television Switchover	11,096	11,265	7,784	-	-	The Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) program provides funding for capital and operating costs associated with the delivery of commercial digital television services via a direct-to-home satellite service covering all of Australia. Existing VAST contract is due to expire in FY2020-21.
Intellectual property	250	250	250	250	250	Annual membership payment to the World Intellectual Property Organisation

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	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
International Organisation Contributions						Payments are based on calendar year, appropriation is by financial year, as a result amounts are shown over two lines. (Expenses not requiring appropriation represent prepayments made in the prior year).
-Appropriation Bill 1	3,745	3,611	3,611	3,722	3,836	
-Expenses not requiring cash	2,791	2,885	2,808	2,808	2,894	
<i>International Organisation Contributions - TOTAL expenses</i>	6,536	6,496	6,419	6,530	6,730	Membership contributions to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), who work to ensure the seamless operation of radio communication, telecommunication and satellites globally.
<i>ITU</i>	6,280	6,240	6,163	6,274	6,474	
<i>APT</i>	256	256	256	256	256	
Mobile Black Spot Program	86,816	41,092	26,003	-	-	Provides grant funding to mobile network operators and infrastructure providers to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.
<i>Round 1</i>	47,088	-	-	-	-	
<i>Round 2</i>	31,204	9,616	6,003	-	-	
<i>Priority Location Round</i>	8,524	31,476	20,000	-	-	
Spectrum Pricing Transitional Support	6,199	6,199	6,199	6,199	6,199	A transitional support package provided to 19 licensees to ensure they are no worse off as a consequence of the introduction of new spectrum pricing fees and the abolishment of the broadcasting licence fees, datacasting charges and apparatus licence fees.
Supporting Underrepresented sports	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	-	Funding provided to Fox Sports to increase coverage of sports that receive low or no broadcast exposure.
Women's Safety	406	-	-	-	-	Funding provided to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner to develop a resource package for women about online safety.

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	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Special Accounts						
Public Interest Telecommunications Services Special Account						
National Relay Service	31,700	27,700	22,000	22,000	22,000	Annual contribution to the National Relay Service, an Australia-wide phone service for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment. Current contract ends 31/1/19. Tender process underway.
Universal Service Obligation	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	Paid to Telstra to ensure that standard telephone services, payphones and prescribed carriage services are accessible to all people in Australia on an equitable basis.
Other Public Interest Service	57,900	35,400	24,100	24,100	24,100	Predominantly paid to Telstra for other public interest services that support the continuity of supply of carriage services during the transition to the National Broadband Network. Amounts paid for Other Public Interest Services have fluctuated significantly in past years. It is expected that amounts from 2019-20 will be revised upwards in the next Budget update.
- <i>Voice Only Migration</i>	43,489	15,000	24,100	24,100	24,100	
- <i>Emergency Call Services</i>	12,076	19,800				
- <i>Extended Zones</i>	2,335	600				
Payments to corporate entities	1,323,738	1,327,637	1,332,652	1,335,076	1,345,211	Appropriation funding for corporate entities occurs through the Department.
- <i>ABC</i>	1,043,680	1,045,911	1,047,963	1,050,990	1,056,011	
- <i>SBS</i>	280,058	281,726	284,689	284,086	289,200	

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Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget Year						
International Organisation Contributions	See above					Prepayment - as outlined above.
Regional Backbone Blackspots Program	8,033	8,033	8,033	8,033	8,033	Depreciation expenses (non-cash) relating to key fibre backhaul infrastructure in regional Australia, for which construction is now complete.
Regional Broadband Scheme	-	563,989	699,835	760,000	794,719	Establishes a transparent funding mechanism for NBN Co Ltd's fixed wireless and satellite networks, through the <i>Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Bill 2018</i> (currently before Parliament).