

Budget Estimates 2020-21

Communications and the Arts portfolio – 21 & 22 October 2020

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
1.	All	Green	APS Staff Cyber Security Training	<p>1. Have APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity received cyber security training?</p> <p>2. How many APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity have attended in person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>3. Who administers and conducts this training?</p> <p>4. Does the Department/Commonwealth Entity have a target for the proportion of active users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>5. Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network? a. If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?</p> <p>6. What other forms of cyber security training does the Department/Commonwealth Entity provide?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
2.	All	Green	DMARC Implementation in Commonwealth Government Entities	<p>1. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?</p> <p>2. Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?</p> <p>3. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>5. Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?</p> <p>6. The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.”</p> <p>Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?</p> <p>4. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

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3.	All	McKenzie	Working from Home	<p>1. What is the number of public servants working from home for each month from the Department?</p> <p>2. How has the Department measured increased, static or declining productivity and what are the conclusions from that measure? 3. What is the number of sick days from the Department with a work-from-home workforce for each month of the lockdown and the corresponding sick days for the corresponding months in 2019?</p>	29/10/20 Written
4.	All	Gallagher	Staffing expenditure	<p>1. Please provide the following figures: a. Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20 b. Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20 c. Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020 i. In total ii. As a percentage of total staff headcount d. As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2019-20</p> <p>2. Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.</p> <p>3. In relation to contracts for market research: a. How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020? b. How much has been spent since 24 August 2018? c. Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information: i. Total contract value ii. Supplier iii. If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee of Cabinet.</p>	30/10/2020 Written
5.	All	Kitching	Executive Management	<p>1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020:</p> <p>a. The total number of executive management positions</p> <p>b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p> <p>c. The change in the number of executive manager positions.</p> <p>d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>	13/11/20 Written

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6.	All	Kitching	Ministerial Functions	<p>1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of functions. List of all attendees. Function venue. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Details of any food served. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. Any available photographs of the function. Details of any entertainment provided. 	13/11/20 Written
7.	All	Kitching	Departmental functions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of functions. List of all attendees. Function venue. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Details of any food served. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. Any available photographs of the function. Details of any entertainment provided. 	13/11/20 Written
8.	All	Kitching	Executive Office Upgrades	<p>1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>	13/11/20 Written
9.	All	Kitching	Customised and special order furniture and office supplies	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department/agency advise the quantum spent on customised and special-ordered furniture and office supplies (excluding items such as ergonomic desks and chairs and items required for work, health and safety purposes). Please provide a full breakdown, descriptions and cost.</p>	13/11/20 Written
10.	All	Kitching	Facilities upgrades	<p>1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.</p>	13/11/20 Written

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11.	All	Kitching	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	13/11/20 Written
12.	All	Kitching	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	13/11/20 Written
13.	All	Kitching	Secretarial travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 be provided including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided. 	13/11/20 Written
14.	All	Kitching	Departmental staff allowances	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	13/11/20 Written
15.	All	Kitching	Market research	1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies. 2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subject matter b. Company c. Costs for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 d. Contract date period 3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.	13/11/20 Written

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16.	All	Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When approval was first sought. b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process. c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline. 3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided. 	13/11/20 Written
17.	All	Kitching	Promotional merchandise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided. 3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided. 	13/11/20 Written
18.	All	Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 please be provided including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided. 	13/11/20 Written

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19.	All	Kitching	Social media influencers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote. 3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided. 4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided. 	13/11/20 Written
20.	All	Kitching	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Date commissioned. b. Date report handed to Government. c. Date of public release. d. Terms of Reference. e. Committee members and/or Reviewers. 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost. 3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel. 4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel 5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review. 6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level. 7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so. 	13/11/20 Written
21.	All	Kitching	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio 3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date. 4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. 5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. 6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors. 	13/11/20 Written
22.	All	Kitching	Stationery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 	13/11/20 Written

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23.	All	Kitching	Media monitoring	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the FY 2020-21.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p>	13/11/20 Written
24.	Department	Kitching	Departmental staff in Ministers Office	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <p>a. Duration of secondment.</p> <p>b. APS level.</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>	13/11/20 Written
25.	All	Kitching	CDDA Payments	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <p>a. Accepted.</p> <p>b. Rejected.</p> <p>c. Under consideration.</p> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <p>a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations</p> <p>b. The date payment was made</p> <p>c. The decision maker.</p>	13/11/20 Written
26.	All	Kitching	Recruitment	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>	13/11/20 Written

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27.	All	Kitching	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many full-time equivalent staff were engaged at each of 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and at 10 November 2020. 2. How many of these positions are (a) ongoing and (b) non-ongoing. 3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. How many were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. voluntary b. involuntary. 4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies. 5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff. 6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 	13/11/20 Written
28.	All	Kitching	Comcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status. 2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. 	13/11/20 Written
29.	All	Kitching	Fair Work Commission	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	13/11/20 Written
30.	All	Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.	13/11/20 Written
31.	All	Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	13/11/20 Written
32.	All	Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	13/11/20 Written

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33.	5.1	Urquhart	Proposals for the Department, the Fox Sports grant proposal and Foxtel letter	<p>Senator URQUHART: Does the minister tend to present proposals to the department?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We have an open dialogue and regular catch-ups where we talk about the issues of the portfolio.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No. I'm asking, does he specifically present proposals to the department? Let me give you an example. The idea of granting an additional \$10 million to Fox Sports—was that a proposal from the minister to the department?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The proposal that you're talking about was in the previous economic update and went through normal budget processes. Budget proposals are signed off by ministers and they go through ERC and budget processes, and they're decided and announced as part of economic updates.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Did the minister put that to the department as a proposal?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'd have to take on notice what the specifics of that were.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Really?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It was a proposal that went through budget processes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I am sorry. I don't quite understand. What do you need to take on notice? I have asked you a question whether the minister actually provided to the department a proposal to grant an additional \$10 million to Fox Sports. He either did present that as a proposal or it came from the department.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The department is not the decision-making body on new policy. The ERC and the budget processes—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand the decision—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Ministers propose things to ERC.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm not asking about the decision. I'm asking about who presented the proposal to grant an additional \$10 million to Fox Sports. Did that come from the minister or did the department propose it to the minister?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: All proposals that go through budget processes are proposed by ministers into the budget process, supported by the department.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm, did the minister grant \$10 million to Fox Sports without a competitive tender process after receiving a letter from Foxtel asking for a grant?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: What I can confirm is that the government took the decision through budget processes to put in place a program for underrepresented sport for \$10 million, which is a continuation of an existing program.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So, you don't know about a letter that was received from Foxtel asking for a grant? Do you have a copy of that? Does the department have a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	<p>21/10/2020</p> <p>Page 5-6</p>

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34.	5.1	Urquhart	Australian content quotas	<p>Senator URQUHART: In a media release dated 15 April 2020 the minister claimed that he had suspended the Australian content quotas for 2020 when in fact the independent regulator, the ACMA, had done so. The matters on which the minister may direct the ACMA are carefully prescribed by law. Did this media release go through your department and did anyone advise the minister that his media release was incorrect as a matter of fact and law?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I don't have knowledge on that. That was quite a while ago.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I am sure that we would have had a role in providing some content for the purposes of a media release. As to whether we provided advice or saw the final version issued by the minister, I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can I ask that an official provide us with an answer on that today, please?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We'll see what we can do.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Does that mean you can provide it today?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't know what is involved to try and track down what was done back in April, but we will see what we can do.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can I go back to the question you were going to follow up in relation to the media release. You said that you had seen an original or a draft media release. Are you able to provide at least a copy of that and then the subsequent information?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It wouldn't be unusual or something to that effect—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not sure what we saw. The normal process would see us providing input for the purposes of a media release. Whether we actually had a copy of a draft media release that we were responding to, whether we provided input or comment on a media release, I am not sure. I would have to check.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: When you get the copy of the draft, can you please provide that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'll see what we can do.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 6-7
35.	5.1	McMahon	Opportunities created from Fox Sports grant	<p>Senator McMAHON: Could you tell me what opportunities have arisen as a result of the coverage from Fox Sports that is funded by the grant program? What future opportunities might this grant round unlock?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: What we can probably get you, which I don't have in front of me, is an indication of the sorts of tournaments and events that have been broadcast. In answer to your question about opportunity, in a sense it has provided coverage and therefore access to an audience and a broadcast stream that wouldn't otherwise have been available for a whole bunch of sports or the women's competition in a bunch of sports. Certainly that applies to cricket, rugby and a number of others. I'll find the list for you in a second and we will give you a list of the sports involved.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: You can take that on notice if you like.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Thanks.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 13

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36.	5.1	McMahon	10-day rule	<p>Senator McMAHON: How often is the 10-day rule broken?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: When time requires it is broken, and that is frequently because there are other time frames being imposed upon us from other parts of the government system.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: Would you say often?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It is not infrequent. That is correct.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: How often did you break the 10-day rule at the start of COVID-19?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would need to take that on notice. It is certainly the case that things were moving quite quickly on a number of fronts early in COVID. I suspect there were a number of occasions when we would have sought permission to break the 10-day rule with the office.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: So, again, frequently?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes, I would imagine so. As the secretary said, we would have to take it on notice to try to find you an exact number, but it certainly—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It was not unusual.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It was not unusual.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 13</p>
37.	5.1	McMahon	Foxtel – Government support	<p>Senator McMAHON: Was Foxtel the only media organisation who wrote to the minister asking for government support at the start of the COVID pandemic?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The answer to that is, no. There were a number of media organisations or representative bodies that wrote. I would need to take on notice precisely who, but we heard from a number of parts of the media sector at the early onset of COVID.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: So it was certainly wider ranging than just Foxtel?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Absolutely. Yes, it was a common thread across the media industry. They were approaching the minister and the government about the impacts of COVID and how their businesses were being affected.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 14</p>

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38.	5.1	Urquhart	10 Day Rule-urgency	<p>Senator URQUHART: I think you said earlier that none of that \$10 million has been expended.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What was the urgency to break the rule?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: As Mr Windeyer said, it is very likely to have been cabinet lodgement deadlines.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Why did cabinet need to consider it so urgently?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So it was a request of the minister to do that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We don't set the cabinet schedules.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No. But you broke the 10-day rule. What was the urgency around this? Obviously, to meet the cabinet schedule, I think that is what you said?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me who was so anxious to get it before cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I don't think we said 'anxious'.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No, I said that. Clearly, it was. You broke the 10-day rule because of the cabinet stuff. Who was so anxious to get it to cabinet at that time and why?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't think it was a question of people being anxious. There was a schedule of ERC meetings. Across government there would have been ministers with permission to bring measures forward for consideration in that process and we were responding to how we were put into that schedule.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: PM&C allocate the slots and we do the work.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What was the urgency?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Who was so keen to get that before that cabinet meeting? Was it a direction from the Prime Minister? Was it pressure from the Prime Minister? Was it from the minister? Who was so keen to get it at that point to that cabinet process that made the 10-day rule be broken?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think we are overstating the 10-day rule there. We prioritise the cabinet rules above internal rules.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Who is 'we'?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The department. We try to hit the deadlines. It is not unusual, certainly through COVID, for that particular rule to be missed. I can see on notice if there was any particular timing imperative that came through. My understanding is we were allocated a timeslot and we endeavoured to meet it.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 14-15
39.	5.1	Urquhart	Fox Sports - consultation	<p>Senator URQUHART: At the COVID-19 committee hearing on 6 August, Mr Windeyer took on notice the question of whether the minister or the department had consulted with the Australian Sports Commission or the Office for Sport officials on the announcement of \$10 million for Fox Sports. The answer provided on notice states that the department contacted officials at the Department of Health prior to the announcement of the extended grant and</p>	21/10/2020 Page 16

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				<p>the department also consulted with the Office for Sport, in the Department of Health, in July 2017 in developing the scope of the initial grant. I just want to get this straight. In 2020 the department merely contacted sports officials rather than consulted with them on the additional grant of \$10 million? There was no consultation in the lead up to the cabinet decision? Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: If that is the question, yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And the only consultation with sporting officials was actually back in 2017—is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: That was during the original program design. When you have the extension of an existing mechanism, it already is established.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, but did you consult prior to the expediting of the \$10 million or was there just a discussion? You contacted them?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I believe the answer is contained in the response to that question on notice. I am sorry. I do not have it in front of me.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you want to re-answer it then? Is the answer yes or is it no? Did you consult?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The answer in the QON—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The answer is as we put in the response to the question on notice. Extensive consultation was undertaken when the original program design was being undertaken, as opposed to at the point when it was simply an extension of a pre-existing program.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You just contacted the sports officials in relation to the additional \$10 million grant? The consultation happened in 2017, when COVID wasn't even thought of?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: When the program was originally designed.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: In 2017 the former minister for communications, Senator Fifield, first announced the \$30 million for Fox Sports by media release in May 2017, which is well before any consultation with the Office for Sport in July 2017, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't have the time series in front of me, but I take your word for it.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: May is definitely before July.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: May is before July.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Does that mean that both the original ad hoc grant was decided without input from sporting officials and that this grant extension was also decided without input from sporting officials?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Can we just take the original design question on notice? We need to know what the sequencing of development of guidelines and so on was.</p>	
40.	5.1	Urquhart	Fox Sports – value for money	<p>Senator URQUHART: The seven key principles for better practice grants administration discussed in part 2 of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines include robust planning and design, and achieving value with relevant money. How did the minister and the</p>	21/10/2020

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				<p>department satisfy themselves that a further grant of \$10 million would achieve value with the relevant money, particularly given that Fox Sports is, as Senator Pratt raised earlier, behind a pay wall? How did you satisfy that that would achieve the result?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We'll take on notice a value for money assessment. With well established programs, the guidelines and advice will be based on the objectives and what the program will achieve. But I will take on notice the detail of the value for money assessment.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You can't tell me how that process was arrived at, that you were satisfied that that grant of an extra \$10 million would achieve value?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: What I have said is the detailed value for money analysis, I will take on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Windeyer, can you help there?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would like to take on notice similarly the detail of the value for money assessment. I would point out that this was an extension of an existing program—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, I think you have said that three times.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer:—where we had evidence that it met its guidelines and had delivered significant additional broadcasting of sport, which was the intention of the program.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What about people's participation in sport?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The purpose of the grant was to get further broadcasting of sport that wouldn't have otherwise been broadcast, and that's what was achieved.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm quite interested in this. This is the same department that's responsible for spending \$30 million for a \$3 million piece of land. I expect that you would be clear and transparent about determining what the value for money actually is.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Value for money assessments are done as part of the program implementation.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand why they're done. I'm asking in relation to this particular grant of \$10 million to Foxtel.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I said that I would take on notice the detailed value for money assessment that informed it. We have many thousands of these, so I do not have that with me.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 22-23]</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: ... The PGPA Act requires that a minister must not approve proposed expenditure of relevant money unless satisfied after reasonable inquiries that the expenditure would be a proper use of relevant money. The terms of the approval must be recorded in writing as soon as practicable after the approval is given. Were the terms of the approval recorded in writing as soon as practicable?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: They would have been.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry? Yes?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes.</p>	<p>Page 17-18 and 22- 23</p>

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				<p>Senator URQUHART: The audio in this room is not good. Can you tell me what the terms are?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Are you talking about the guidelines?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm talking about the terms of the approval in writing. It says that they must not approve proposed expenditure unless after reasonable inquiries the expenditure would be a proper use. The terms of that approval must be recorded in writing. You have said, yes, they would have been approved in writing. What are the terms?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: As I said earlier, that was the essence of what I was taking on notice. I do not have that documentation in front of me.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What inquiries did the minister make to satisfy himself that the expenditure would be a proper use of relevant money?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: In the ordinary course of event with grants signed off by ministers, they get briefing that outlines the grants and the value for money basis. I took that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Tell me what 'proper' means. What would be a proper use of the relevant money? What are the measures of that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It depends on the context. A proper use of public money is for a proper public policy objective.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And what does that mean?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: In this case the policy objective—and I've taken on notice the details of it, so I'm just—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Doesn't it mean that it's efficient, effective, economical and ethical? Are those the things that it means?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: There's usually more to it than that, but yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What else is there to it? You added the extra to it, Mr Atkinson. You said there was more to it than the management or use of public resources. The proper use of it means efficient, effective, economical and ethical. You said there's more to it than that. What's the more?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I was going back to the constitutional basis in terms of the legal basis for it. But that fits under the ethical use of public money that you referred to there.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What enquiries did the minister make to the department to ensure that that was proper use of that money?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I've already taken on notice the documentation and briefing that supported the value for money sign-off.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you can't tell me what inquiries the minister made to the department to satisfy himself that that was proper use of money?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Senator, I'm telling you that I don't have the documentation for that one particular grant in front of me, of the thousands and thousands of grants that we do. But I've agreed to take it on notice for you.</p>	

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41.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Public Interest News Gathering Fund	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much money did News Corp get out of that \$55 million?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: None.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much money went to Nine Newspapers?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'll see if we have those details and we can give you the answer to that. I don't have them in front of me, but I suspect I can get those for you shortly.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do we have a list of who got what and how much they got? Is that publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Let me see what we can provide.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It's published on Grants Connect. We can give you the list.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That is very easy.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be good.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Who got the largest amount of that \$55 million?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We will find those details and let you know. As we say, the numbers are all publicly available.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 20-21]</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much money did AAP get from the PING Fund?</p> <p>Mr Makin: An additional \$5 million has been made available, as announced by the minister after the completion of that first round; they wouldn't have been eligible for that in the first round.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That \$5 million is in addition to the \$55 million.</p> <p>Mr Makin: Yes, in addition to the \$50 million.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to be clear in relation to AAP, you had distributed the \$50 million?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Correct.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And then there was a further application from AAP?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: An additional stream was put in place.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Had AAP originally applied to be part of the \$50 million bucket?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: They weren't eligible, but I think what became apparent is obviously they do provide an important service to support regional publications. But they wouldn't have been eligible themselves in the original \$50 million.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did they ask for \$5 million?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I will take that on notice and we'll confirm, but I don't think they asked for \$5 million, no.</p>	<p>21/10/2020</p> <p>Page 18-19 and 20-21 and 30</p>

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				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In which case you couldn't tell me whether they got what they asked for?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What other bucket of money has been spent since the COVID period for news, public interest journalism and publishing? Is there any other program that you have been having to administer?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Not that we've had to administer in terms of a process of grants. There was I think a final round of the innovation fund administered by the ACMA. From memory, about \$5 million was allocated under that fund by the ACMA in the same sort of time period.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Was that all that was left in that bucket? Obviously that small publishers innovation fund was something that was created a number of years ago.</p> <p>Mr Makin: No. Some of the remainder of the funds from that original regional and small publishers jobs and innovation package was used for the PING grant funding.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We might need to get a bit more clarity on this.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can provide you the numbers. The PING program, which was established to respond to a particular need, was a combination of in a sense an agreement for some additional funds as well as some, at the point, unallocated funds from the innovation package. That ended up coming together to form the \$50 million package. There remained some unspent innovation fund dollars, which the ACMA has subsequently made some decisions around. We can provide you on notice what the numbers look like.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It would be very helpful on notice if we could have prior to COVID, let's say—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can provide probably the original announcement.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know how much was left in the small and regional innovation fund as of, say, March, and what was announced. It sounds like you have just poured some of that money into this \$55 million bucket?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I understand what you're after. We'll find a way of presenting that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 30]</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I will just clarify an answer to a question I gave to you, Senator Hanson-Young, earlier. This will be perfectly apparent if you work your way through the details of the grants that are online. When I answered your question about Southern Cross Austereo's grant under PING, I only gave you an answer with respect to television, not their interests in radio. So there's another number which is radio, which is \$5.2 million. That will all be on the list you will see. Another thing, just to be absolutely clear—when you asked about Nine, my answer was specifically that there was nothing for newspapers, but there is in the context of television, because there's a regional presence.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What about radio?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't think Nine has radio, so no.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We will get all the details to you.</p>	

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				Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Wonderful.	
42.	5.1	Urquhart and Pratt	Sport not covered by funding and repeat programming	<p>Senator URQUHART: According to the department's answers to questions on notice, competitions that had televised events cancelled due to COVID-19 between March and June include AFLW, Super W, Rugby Sevens, lawn bowls, surfing, hockey and gymnastics. That resulted in a decrease in live hours during the times Fox Sports continued to support the exposure of these sports, with an increase in delayed and repeat programming. Are taxpayers funding Fox Sports \$10 million for delayed and repeat programming?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: From the original program, there was always the intention that it would cover a variety of broadcasting types, including programs about sport as much as live sport itself. The impacts of COVID on all facets of the economy meant people had to make adjustments as to what they were doing. I don't know that I can add much more than that. I will take your word—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Was sport being played that wasn't covered that they would have otherwise covered? Did you assess that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice as to what sport was available. The decisions around procurement and arrangements to secure rights to broadcast sport was a matter for Foxtel rather than for us.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The department has already said in questions on notice that Fox Sports continued to support the exposure of those sports that I have outlined with an increase in delayed and repeat programming. Minister, maybe you can answer: are taxpayers paying Fox Sports \$10 million for delayed and repeat programming?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Obviously this is not my department so I can't answer with any great insight into the intricacies of those arrangements. What I can say, though, from personal experience, is I remember being at home with my dad, who was very sick in early March. It was International Women's Day. There was a Foxtel special week on women's sport to recognise International Women's Day. Some of it was live and some of it was repeat, delays or whatever it was. At the time I didn't actually put that together with the grant. I can remember thinking what a really good thing it was to have a celebration of women's sport during International Women's Day.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That's not the question. I didn't ask you for a preface of your personal viewing habits. What I did ask you was: is it a good use of \$10 million of taxpayer funds for delayed and repeat programming?</p> <p>Senator Hume: As I said at the very beginning of my answer, I don't have insight into the intricacies of that program. That is not my portfolio. I do remember feeling that that one week of celebration of women's sport on Foxtel was heartening.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Repeated. Thank you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 22

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43.	5.1	Urquhart	Fox Sports Grant extension	<p>Senator URQUHART: The department advised the COVID-19 committee on notice that the initial funding of \$30 million was provided to Fox Sports in 2017-18 to 2020-21 under an ad hoc grant and that in July this year the government made a decision to extend the program to 2022 with a further \$10 million in funding. Is an extension of an ad hoc grant permissible?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It's a decision of government.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is it permissible? I didn't ask whether it was a decision of government or—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Is it legally permissible?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is it permissible?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: For a grant to be extended for a year?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Any extension.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes. The government can extend grant programs. It's a normal thing to do.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it's permissible.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Does extending what was originally an ad hoc or one-off grant alter its status or mean that it's no longer an ad hoc grant?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'd have to take that on notice. I think it would depend on the period of the extension. I think we're getting into the mix of ad hoc grants and terminating measures and ongoing measures. They're technical terms.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Tell me about that. How long can ad hoc grants be rolled over for? Can they be rolled over forever? When does it stop being an ad hoc grant and become a grant?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: An ad hoc grant is a subset of a grant.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So how long can you—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We're getting into the territory where you probably need to ask the Department of Finance, because they're very technical conditions.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But you must have some laws around ad hoc grants and how long you can extend them before they stop being an ad hoc grant and their status is no longer an ad hoc grant. How long can they be rolled over for? Can they just keep rolling over? And does it ever stop becoming an ad hoc grant? You could just keep doing this for years.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We follow Finance's guidance on the treatment and classification of different grant types. I'll take on notice the specific answer, but I think that ad hoc grants can continue to be rolled over. The government can take decisions to roll over ad hoc grants.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Forever?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Is it all right if I take it on notice, Senator? I've tried to take it on notice four times so that I don't accidentally mislead you.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I don't want you to accidentally mislead me at all. But I thought that you would have had that information.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Urquhart, the secretary has agreed to take it on notice, so we can move on.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 23-24

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44.	5.1	Urquhart	Guidelines for grant extensions	<p>Senator URQUHART: Were the guidelines for the \$10 million grant extension amended in any way? If so, how and why?</p> <p>Mr Makin: I can confirm they were amended. I don't have the guidelines in front of me to explain what changed in them. There weren't significant changes but it was changed to reflect particularly the addition of the additional milestone that has been brought in this year which relates to the way Foxtel is handling sport during COVID and bringing broadcasting back. They've been asked to do a re-establishment and acceleration plan as an additional milestone this year, and that would have been reflected in the guidelines.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide the guidelines to us?</p> <p>Mr Makin: I can take that on notice. I think we've released the previous version.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 24
45.	5.1	Urquhart	GrantConnect	<p>Senator URQUHART: And I've asked you to provide the details of that. Have the details of the grant extension been published on GrantConnect?</p> <p>Mr Makin: I think so.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I would have to take that on notice to confirm that. I don't have that in front of me.</p> <p>Mr Makin: I'm sure it would be. But we'll take it on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 24
46.	5.1	Urquhart	Subscription broadcasting	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you provide some detail around what the difference is and why subscription broadcasting of Fox Sports specifically is more important in the government's eyes than community broadcasting?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can take that on notice for you but I think that you have verballed the government there to some extent.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 25
47.	5.1	Urquhart	Annual Report	<p>Senator URQUHART: Have you given it to the minister yet?</p> <p>Ms Spence: The annual report is currently with the printers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it hasn't gone to the minister yet?</p> <p>Ms Spence: No, it's been cleared by the minister and is now with the printers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it has gone to the minister?</p> <p>Ms Spence: It has.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Which minister did it go to and on what date?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It went to the Deputy Prime Minister, copying in all the ministers, I think.</p> <p>Ms Spence: It certainly went to the Deputy Prime Minister. I'd have to take on notice the exact date that it went to him.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 25

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48.	5.1	Urquhart	Remuneration; PING funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: Given that the annual report has not been tabled yet, can you tell me, Mr Windeyer, what your remuneration is—maybe your best guess?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I have just sought the figure that will be the figure that you will see published in the annual report. The figure you'll see in the annual report is \$336,147.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just for the sake of clarity, I know you're going to take on notice the break-up of the money across those two buckets, both the PING money and the small and regional innovation fund. I did ask back during the COVID hearing in relation to who received funding out of that small And regional publishers fund. On notice—it was question 27 out of that hearing—you've come back to us with a list of who they all are but no figures. I'd really like to know how much each of those organisations got.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We can do that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And just to be clear, that was a different process, which is why it's not on the grants website? You were saying to me before that it's public and you can look it up. I just sat here while listening to Senator Urquhart and I can see where that money is but I can't see this fund up there.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I can't answer the second half of your question. But I can't see any reason why we can't provide the details of the money to the organisation. So we will certainly find that for you. And yes, you are correct: it was a separate process. It was a separate process undertaken by the ACMA rather than by the department. We'll certainly endeavour to get the details for you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The criteria that were used and the formula that you were referring to that was used for the distribution of the PING money—can we have a copy of what those criteria are, please?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It's in the guidelines; it's published. So we'd be able to get that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be good. I also looked on the website. Because the process is closed, I couldn't access it.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We can get that for you.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 25-26</p>

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49.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Increase/decrease in budget	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I'd like to turn to the ABC. I want to be clear about exactly the amount of money that has been put aside for the ABC in this year's budget. Is it correct that the 2022-23 budget falls by a million dollars?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Are you talking about 2020-21?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: 2022-23 in Budget Paper No. 1.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Sorry, I only have our yellow book, which has the appropriation figures in it.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Let's start at the top. How much money has been allocated to the ABC in this year's budget?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: That's on page 125 in our yellow book. The total appropriation is \$1.065 billion, up from \$1.062 billion last year.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And over the forward estimates is there any increase or decrease in the budget going forward?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It goes from \$1.062 billion last year to \$1.065 billion this year and then \$1.070 billion next year.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And what about the 2022-23 budget?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think it's \$1.057 billion because that's beyond the end of the triennium funding agreement, and that when the funding agreement gets rolled out that number will be extended out. So you would see a reflection of 2021-22 into 2022-23. But I can give you some more detail about what drives that change on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, that would be helpful.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 26
50.	5.1	Green	NBN FTTC upgrade	<p>Senator GREEN: What was the difference between what Mr Morrow said in 2018 and what Minister Fletcher said at the Press Club? Both of them referred to 1.5 million premises being G.fast enabled. One of them said it would be by 2020 and the minister is now saying it's 2023. Why won't fiber to the curb network be gigabyte capable by the end of 2020?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: As I said, I think there are some details here that would be worth raising with NBN or we can take them on notice, but I think NBN will be able to answer for you when they appear exactly what the state of the FTTC network is and its readiness. I think the best place to find out the answer or to understand the explanation of those two positions is to actually check with NBN.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: So you don't know the answer, Mr Windeyer?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't want to—as I say, there is—I think there may well be issues here associated with the difference between actually connecting and providing a customer with a gigabit speed when they order such a thing versus having the network investing in technology in the network that is capable of supplying those services at some point in the future. But, as I say, I think it would be better to put those questions on the specifics of the network to NBN.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: This is a pretty high-level question, so maybe we can end on this if I can get to the bottom of this. Did the minister announce an upgrade or a delay?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: You're talking about the announcement in September, Senator?</p>	21/10/2020 Page 33-35

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				<p>Senator GREEN: In regard to having 1.5 million homes enabled by G.fast capability.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The announcement in September was an announcement about a significant upgrade of NBN to be able to support gigabit services.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Was it an upgrade or was it a delay on the previous position by Mr Bill Morrow?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, as I said, on the specifics of the FTTC, I'm happy to take it on notice, but I suspect that a quicker way of understanding those two positions is probably to ask those questions directly of NBN, who, as you know, will be appearing. But the broad point is that what was announced by the minister in September was a significant upgrade of NBN to be able to support gigabit services for consumers that demanded them across a range of network types.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Is that two different things, though? I'm asking you if it was an upgrade of this particular capability or a delay of this particular capability. I know there is some talk about some other types of upgrading of the technology, but just in regard to this one capability, we were told that it was going to be finished in 2020.</p> <p>Mr Madsen: Senator, the network has been completed and it is providing services to those 1.5 million premises. Your question might go more to the maximum speed that those services can obtain. It may be that Mr Morrow's original statement referred to the ability of that network to be upgraded over time to achieve those gigabit capabilities. But, as Mr Windeyer has indicated, it might be better to put that level of detail to the company.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Mr Morrow's statement, I think, as you pointed out, was the end of a testing phase of a particular piece of technology. Then, subject to the outcomes of those tests, they would have been looking to deploy in the network. But I think that's where the questions to NBN will be able to explain what they did in terms of installation of G.fast capable DPUs in 2018 and since then. What is also required and was always, I imagine, envisaged to be required to actually then connect customers who order a gigabit service through their RSP to the network. So Mr Morrow was talking about the DPUs that were then going to come into the market and be installed in the network at that point in time.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay, but with that grid that you spoke about just recently, what is NBN actually upgrading on an FTTC network? You just said that it was significant. They're spending about \$70 per home, as I understand. So what is that upgrade for?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, as I've said, I'm happy to take that on notice. I can't give you the technical answer to that question right now, but I think it would be something that NBN will be very happy to explain to you.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That's a pretty high-level question. Are you sure you can't—you don't know the answer to that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think you're trying to get an answer to exactly what the dollars will be spent on in the network by the company, and that is something that they have the detail of and I don't have the detail of, Senator.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator GREEN: You don't have the details of \$70 per home is going to—by the government.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I don't have the details of exactly the technical issues that NBN is going to be spending money on over the next few years with respect to the FTTC network. I'm happy to take it on notice, but, as I say, I think it would be—I think NBN will be happy to answer those questions.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I think I have to hand over, so just to wrap up, you just said that it was a significant upgrade—it's so significant that you don't know what it is?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Can we just desist with this. I think Mr Windeyer is saying you'll get a better answer from the people who are actually going to be implementing the upgrade on the technical aspects of exactly what's going to happen to the FTTC.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Chair, I do think Mr Atkinson has answered a few times.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I can—thank you for that advice about who I might want to get a better answer from, but I would like an answer from the people sitting at the table right now.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Senator Green, I do believe that all members at the table have said that that question will be taken on notice or you can direct it to NBN, which is probably the more appropriate agency.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: And in taking on notice, that means at the moment you don't have that information at hand—is that correct?</p> <p>Senator Hume: That's normally what taking on notice means.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That's correct, Senator.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay, it's so significant that we don't have that information on hand. Thank you.</p>	
51.	5.1	Siewert	Advertising of gambling on social media	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I am going to be asking questions this afternoon on that, just for a heads-up, but I'm particularly interested more broadly than that. Do you have any process of monitoring or have any understanding of the level or the prevalence of advertising on social media in general, but also specifically during COVID-19? Because you're probably also aware of the Australia Institute study around the increase in gambling during COVID-19. Anyway, I'll leave it at that. I've got lots of other questions.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I'm personally not aware of any particular data around levels of advertising or changes in levels of advertising of gambling on social media.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: It's also in social media. It may not be officially classed as advertising, but it is still promoting gambling and that's particularly concerning as well.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I think I'd have to take that on notice to see what we are aware of or can find that measures or calculates that. The only other thing I was going to mention, though, is that it is also something that we will check with colleagues in the Social Services portfolio, because our area of responsibility is constrained to the online gambling as opposed to necessarily—</p>	21/10/2020 Page 35-36

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I will be there next week asking questions as well.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I understand the question. I can't give you any figures off the top of my head. I'm happy to take it on notice to see what we can find with respect to gambling advertising or promotion in social media.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Mr Phelps seems to have some information.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Phelps: That's okay—no problem at all. The Broadcasting Services Act 2018 online rules restricts the showing of gambling promotions during live sport. In relation to complaints as to monitoring that, the ACMA would be best asked that question. They've been looking at that last year and this year as well.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The senator already indicated she'd be asking them this afternoon.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I will be asking them. My experience recently, particularly during COVID, is that wherever I'm asking questions, not just related to gambling, there haven't been a lot of complaints about various things. I can tell you what: I've had a lot of complaints, so I'm not sure that people are finding more broadly the complaints process around a whole range of things, not just here, a bit confronting and they actually don't find it very effective. That's another issue I'll chase another time. I'm not surprised, quite frankly, that you haven't had a lot of complaints, because these things come up in social media and people, other than if they're focused on the fact that this is really bad, or they think it's really bad, won't complain. So my question is then, and I thank you for—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: A lot of people just suck it up.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, they do. Are you undertaking any work to determine the prevalence of this? So it's not related to complaints.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: And you're talking about the prevalence of promotions?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Of promotions through social media.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes. Can I take that on notice, Senator. I understand the issue. I just don't have anything I can give to you at this point in time. I completely understand the issue and I agree or accept the point that, to some extent, the complaints we would expect to see would go to the things that we are currently regulating, and we don't regulate all aspects of advertising either. So, hence, it just might be something that is not directly on our radar as such, but it doesn't mean it isn't on someone else's. So we will come back to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Okay, thank you.</p>	
52.	5.1	Siewert	Gambling affiliates	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Do you know what gambling affiliates are?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I'm not sure precisely what you're referring to.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So gambling affiliates—we're seeing a big problem with gambling affiliates that aren't necessarily the organised—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The primary organisation.</p>	<p>21/10/2020</p> <p>Page 37</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator SIEWERT: The primary organisation. But there are others that are then working with them to bring gamblers on board, and it's a significant issue. So my question then relates to—are you picking up issues around and regulating for gambling affiliates as well?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: So to the extent we regulate, I think the primary piece is the advertising and promotion of online gambling services. I'm happy to take on notice and give you an explanation of how far that stretches. But it goes to the nature of the service that's being promoted rather than who's doing the promotion.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated. Thank you. So then you might need to take this on notice in terms of what actions are being taken to stop these gambling affiliates particularly picking on—sorry, I should say picking on—targeting vulnerable people and promoting unsafe practice—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm happy to take—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: or harmful gambling.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes, I'm happy to take that on notice. And, of course, I know this is just to throw another entity into the mix here. Obviously, the other part of this puzzle goes to the states and territories that end up licensing the gambling operations. We are primarily in the business of regulating with respect to advertising of gambling on certain media platforms and on the Interactive Gambling Act, as you'd know, which in a sense limits—makes a number of things illegal to be offered in Australia. But it doesn't necessarily follow that everything that's—then it comes down what states are prepared—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I have a series of questions that I've—I did put and I'm putting on notice in other committees on that very issue. Thank you for taking that on notice.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
53.	5.1	Green	Cost per premises	<p>Senator GREEN: Okay. You can see what my questions are essentially about—the difference between fibre to the premises and this approach—it can get quite technical, but really it's pretty simple. Bill Morrow recommended the government scrap HFC altogether. Is that because it was incredibly expensive and it keeps running out of capacity?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: NBN's corporate plan publishes information in terms of the cost per premises for each technology. So, for the figures for FY20, the cost per premises for fibre to the premises is around about \$4,395. That compares to the cost per premises for the HFC network of \$2,752 and for the fibre to the curb network of \$3,343. Some of these networks—they incur costs at different points in time. But those cost per premises figures give an indication of how that averages out.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Those costs that you just read out—the costs that you just read to me—do they include the \$600 million or the additional \$400 million? Have they been factored into cost per premises?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: They were the figures for the 2019-20 financial year. So my understanding is they would include the \$600 million, but they would not include the new investments that have been announced back in September, which was the \$400 million for extra for the HFC network.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Would you like to take that on notice, because I think there might be some issues with those figures and I wouldn't want you to be giving me the wrong information. It would be even great if you could come back during the NBN session and let us know.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We'll take that on notice and we can alert NBN to the fact that those questions have been asked. They're NBN's numbers. So we will draw it to their attention so they can come with that question in mind tomorrow evening.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 40
54.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Staff cuts	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Were you surprised to see ABC announce 250 job losses a couple of months ago?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think that we should move the discussions about the choices of ABC management around their job losses and around their expenditure choices to the ABC because they exercise independence in how they run their entity.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And I will ask them all of those questions. But I'm asking you. You're the head of the department. When the public heard that 250 people lost their jobs in the midst of a global pandemic and in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression in Australia, were you surprised?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I was aware of the staff cuts. I'd have to take on notice exactly when.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know when you were made aware of the staff cuts.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll take that on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 41

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55.	5.1	Hanson-Young	ABC – extra resources	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has there been any briefing sought from the ABC about the extra cost that those services, particularly over this last summer, impacted their operation?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think the ABC has provided information to us around the efforts that they undertake during the bushfire season.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: This bushfire season was particularly busy, wasn't it?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes, it was.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the ABC, at any point since then and prior to budget night, asked for any extra resources for helping with this type of service?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We have had a number of discussions with the ABC and they've come forward with a number of ideas or thoughts in light of what we learnt during the bushfire season. That's something that we have discussed with the ABC and those are the sorts of issues that naturally would be considered as we lead into another triennium funding round for the ABC.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did they ask for more money in this year's budget?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I don't think the ABC specifically asked for more money in this budget but I will take that on notice and confirm for you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 42
56.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Departmental advice re ABC bargaining process	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did the minister receive advice from the department about including the ABC in the bargaining process?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: We provided the minister with a range of advice on how the code was being developed. I would emphasise though that this is a process being led by the Treasury and the ACCC in terms of its shape, its drafting and the consultation process.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Of course I understand that is the process. But you guys are the experts because it's your department. I'd like to know whether there was advice sought by the minister in relation to including the public broadcasters in the code.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I can take on notice with respect to the advice but these are being considered through the cabinet processes and our advice would be feeding into that process.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 43
57.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Draft code	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: When did the department first get a copy of the draft code before it was—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The draft code that went out for consultation?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: I'd have to take the specific date of that final draft code on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Obviously I am assuming that the department saw it before it was made public.</p> <p>Mr Penprase: Yes. I just don't have the precise date as to when that final settled draft was agreed and ready to be published.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 44

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58.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Shift from voluntary code to mandatory code	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Sure. Could you take on notice please when either Mr Atkinson as the secretary or you, if it was you, were first made aware that there was going to be a shift from a voluntary code to a mandatory code? I'd like to know the date of the first time that you were told.</p> <p>Mr Penprase: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 44
59.	5.1	Green	ACCC and request for information	<p>Senator GREEN: I want to move on to another topic under outcome 5. Some of these questions were raised a little bit earlier during the general questioning, so I'll try not to have too much repetition. Mr Windeyer, at the inquiry into the lessons to be learned in relation to the Australian bushfire season 2019-20, there was a hearing on 12 August 2020 and Labor Senator Tim Ayres referred you to a finding in the final report of the ACCC's digital platforms inquiry. That finding said that newspaper closures have left 21 local government areas without coverage from a single newspaper. You were asked at that hearing to provide, on notice, a list of local government areas that don't have any local news capability. When that inquiry received a written response to the question on notice, the department failed to provide the list as requested. Why was that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I'm not sure. Let me ask Mr Makin to come to the table. He might be able to provide an answer to that question.</p> <p>Mr Makin: I don't have the QON in front of me, so I don't know what we said in response. I would have seen it; I just don't have it to hand. The 21 local government areas comes from work done by the ACCC for the digital platforms inquiry. We don't have that piece of work, so I don't know which specific local government areas they are. But we are aware of the work and we're aware of that number.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: This was a final report from 2018, I think. You haven't asked for that information, even though a Senate inquiry requested it?</p> <p>Mr Makin: We've obviously, over time, discussed with the ACCC in the digital platforms inquiry, but they haven't provided that report to us. My understanding is that they haven't published that report in any form.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That's fine, but in a question on notice we asked you to provide that list of local government areas. You didn't do any of your own work to determine what that was? Did you make a request to the ACCC so that you could fulfil this question that was given to you? It was a bushfire hearing. We want to make sure that those questions are answered.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I think Mr Makin has given you all that he can. We took on notice the question and endeavoured to answer with the best information we had available. It is a question that could be put to the ACCC to get some further information about what they had. We answered the question based on the best information we had available. I certainly did not have it with me at the hearing, so I undertook to see whether we had any further information.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Senator, we'll refer it to the ACCC to give the Senate the 21 directly.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Why didn't you do that already? There was a question on 12 August.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We as a department didn't have the information you asked for.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 45

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				<p>Senator GREEN: Mr Atkinson, I was asking why your department didn't request it from the ACCC so that you could answer the question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll take on notice whether or not the ACCC was asked for the information and didn't give it to us.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes, I think that would be helpful. It is a list of 21 local government areas. It's not a state secret, is it? It seems strange that we can't get an answer to this question. Rather than taking on notice that list itself, given that we did ask for it back on 12 August, Mr Atkinson, could you endeavour to try to get that list for us today, if the department has the information today? If it doesn't—</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Senator, we don't have the information. It's about whether or not we could get it from the ACCC. The ACCC doesn't always—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Do you want to ask them today if you can have it? That might be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Certainly. Would the officials watching please do that.</p>	
60.	5.1	Green	Public Interest News Gathering program	<p>Senator GREEN: How much was the Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation Package before the announcement was made?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think—</p> <p>Mr Makin: It was \$60.4 million was the initial announcement on that program as a whole. There are a number of grant programs within that, but that was the initial package announcement in 2017.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: There was a portion of that that was underspent or unspent, which we found out about this morning. W2 Yes, I checked that over the break: \$36.6 million of that had not been spent and it has been reused for the PING grant program.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Of that unspent money, how much of that was from the regional publishers part of it?</p> <p>Mr Makin: I don't have the breakdown in front of me by each of those programs. There were programs across innovation, cadetships and scholarships, but I don't have the breakdown across the three.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: It seems to me that the \$50 million included \$5 million of fast-track funding for the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund. Does that mean only \$5 million is going to the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund of that unspent money that was carried over?</p> <p>Mr Makin: The \$5 million for the innovation fund is on top of the \$50 million. It is money that was part of that regional and small publishers package. The minister announced the fast tracking of that, as you said. The \$50 million is additional to that \$5 million.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, we took on notice earlier, and are very happy to provide, the breakdown of the elements of the original funding package and the elements as they currently stand, which will illustrate those movements.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Are you also taking on notice, of the \$50 million, what is new money and what was underspent from another program?</p>	21/10/2020 Page 46-47

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				<p>Mr Windeyer: Yes, that will be part of what we produce.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What I've worked out is that about \$13.4 million was the new money.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That might be correct, Senator. We'll certainly confirm that.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I've tried to figure this out already from some of the questions on notice that you gave to the COVID committee. It would be good if the department could confirm that figure. If that is the new money—\$13.4 million—why did the government announce a \$50 million package?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Because the government announced a \$50 million program to support regional news.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It's not unusual to re-divert unused funds to a new program that's worth the total amount.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Mr Atkinson, I think what is not unusual—and maybe this is what you're trying to get at, if I can put this to you—is for this government to repackage something and try to sell it off as a new product with a new slogan under what is meant to be \$50 million; but when you go and look at the details, you see that actually it's only 13.4 million new dollars.</p>	
61.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Meetings with Facebook and Google	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the department been approached directly outside of those 44 meetings with the ACCC and the two roundtables? Has the department been approached for meetings and negotiation or consultation by Google?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: Certainly not in the negotiation space. This is being led, as I said, by the ACCC; so any discussions about the nature of the code are through that ACCC process. I'm not aware of any specific discussions outside that, although we obviously meet with most stakeholders in the sector from time to time. I'd have to take on notice if there are any specific meetings that canvassed these issues. I may or may not have been involved in them.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'd like to know if there've been any meetings of representatives of the department with both Facebook and Google separate to the events, let's say, or meetings convened through the ACCC.</p> <p>Mr Penprase: We'll certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Atkinson, I'd really like to know whether there have been any official, formal meetings between Google and Facebook with the minister as well.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll provide that on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 48-49

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62.	5.1	Hanson-Young	ACCC review	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are there any other reviews or reports outstanding in the news gathering/broadcasters/publishers space?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I can't think of any that have been undertaken by us. We can take that on notice and confirm.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay. In relation to the ACCC's review from last year, which part of the news media bargaining code has come out of—could you take on notice which of the ACCC recommendations have started to be implemented: yes or no, or what their status is?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.</p>	<p>21/10/2020</p> <p>Page 51</p>

63.	5.1	Marielle Smith	Community television licence extension decision	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Can we move to community TV? On Monday 29 June on the ABC program <i>Q+A</i>, one day before the 30 June deadline when channels 44 and 31 were set to be switched off, Minister Fletcher announced live on air that both stations would have their licences extended for a further 12 months. Why did the minister have such a sudden and late change of heart?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It was just a question of the timing of the minister's decision before the deadline.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Why was the announcement made on 29 June, very close to the end of the deadline for them to be switched off? Clearly, if the announcement wasn't made until that point, there was a change of heart or a change of decision. What prompted it?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: There are probably a number of things. For some time, as you'd be aware, there has been a move by community television to online delivery platforms. Clearly, in this case we've got a couple of community television broadcasters who haven't yet made that transition, and they've been give an extension for 12 months. It's also associated with some sort of undertakings or work that they will now do to transition themselves to an alternative distribution model.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I understand all of that. The question I'm asking is: why was the change of mind made one day before the deadline? What happened?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't think there's anybody here that could possibly answer about the minister's thinking at the time. I know that the minister was encouraging community television to move to an online platform. We can take that question on notice, as to his state of mind at the time he made the decision.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 56]</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Can I take you back to the minister's announcement on <i>Q+A</i> on 29 June. When did the minister make the decision to extend the licences of channel 34 and 41 for another 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: My recollection is that he made it that day and he wrote to the ACMA, who are responsible for signing off on the transmitter licences. But I will come back and double check that date.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Minister Hume, do you know why he came to that decision, what reasons he gave?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I couldn't answer to his state of mind when he made that decision. I'm sure it was based on good advice.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I wasn't so much talking about his state of mind but the policy justifications for making that decision. Are you aware of those?</p> <p>Senator Hume: No, I can't answer that for you. I think that the officials have probably given you as much information on that issue as is possibly available.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Did the minister or the department officially advise channel 44 and channel 31 of their licence extension?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I will come back to you with a precise time line. It was announced on <i>Q+A</i> and then my recollection is there was a discussion between my staff and the stations the next day to confirm that.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 54 & 56</p>
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64.	5.1	Marielle Smith	Fiscal implications – transmitter licences	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: What would be the cost to government to extend the broadcasting licence for community TV stations for another 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: It's not so much around the cost; it is about vacating the spectrum so that it will be freed up for future uses.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Future uses?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: It is about freeing up the spectrum for alternative uses.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: That's not the question I asked. What will the cost to government be if they were to remain on air?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: There's no fiscal impact beyond the—</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Apart from the amount of the broadcasting licences themselves, no—the spectrum licences.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: So the cost to government of continuing this for another 12 months would be zero?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It would be very close to that, yes.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: If it's zero cost, presumably, if it was extended for two years or five years, it would also be zero?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: It's about the efficient allocation of the spectrum.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: My question is about what the cost is to government.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Senator, I think that the officials—</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: It's either zero or a multiple of zero.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think the officials have answered that this is a strategic decision, not a fiscal one.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Yes, but I'm asking about the fiscal implications, which I think is a reasonable question to ask during budget estimates.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: The actual cost of the transmitter licences? I would need to take that on notice and come back to you. As has been said, it's a strategic issue as much as a fiscal one. But I can come back to you with the precise cost of the transmitter licences for being in those bands.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 54-55
65.	5.1	Marielle Smith	Centre Alliance – licence extension	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: In the lead-up to the decision to extend the licences did the minister or his staff meet with any representatives or members of parliament associated with Centre Alliance in relation to the licence extension?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Not that I'm aware of. We'd have to take it on notice with respect to the minister and his staff.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 56

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
66.	5.1	Urquhart	TTY/Captel replacement	<p>Senator URQUHART: How many CapTel handsets were replaced in aged-care homes, and what choice of alternatives was provided?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: As I've said previously, we didn't replace any CapTel handsets. We did not remove them. We did not change anything about the CapTel handset. I don't have here how many of our training sessions were conducted in aged-care facilities, but I can get that information for you on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Maybe I am using the wrong language. When I say 'replaced', the issue is that you've provided training to people on another process—whether it's TTY or whatever. That implies that they've replaced the CapTel, even though it's probably still sitting on a shelf, or whatever the process is.</p> <p>Ms Silleri: Essentially, I would need to take on notice how many sessions we've conducted in aged-care facilities. I can get that for you.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. In terms of that—</p> <p>Mr Paterson: It should be noted that a lot of the aged-care sessions have had to be done over the phone and not in person because of the access issues.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, of course; you're not allowed in. Thanks, Mr Paterson.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 62
67.	5.1	Pratt	RBAH/SBS/ABC	<p>Senator PRATT: I'd like to continue asking some questions about the broadcast blackspots, and I'm very pleased that Mr Atkinson has also been able to join us, so I can put some of the ABC's challenges in continuing broadcasting as well as commercial broadcasters and the SBS in context as the number of blackspots currently looks set to grow. Mr Atkinson, are you able to tell us how long it will be until more sites like east Goulburn and Bermagui drop out so that they'll no longer receive an ABC service?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I might actually ask Mr Anderson that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: As I said earlier, ABC and SBS are working together in discussion with RBAH to get that resolved as soon as possible. It's not a question necessarily of not wanting to do it but a question of exactly how and by what means we have a service-level agreement. That's important. If we are paying money for it to come back on again, we want it to be maintained. So we just need to work through the due diligence on that, and we're looking to get through that as soon as possible. I am aware that the emergency broadcasting season is approaching fast. I would like to think that's a matter of weeks, notwithstanding any other barrier that we might have. Again, that would be looking to solve the issue not just for that site but for the other transmission sites run by RBAH.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Mr Atkinson, is there a commitment from the government to resolve this issue before the next fire season so that there's a clear commitment to ensuring that those transmission locations won't drop out before the next fire season?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We support RBAH, SBS and ABC working together to solve that problem.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you putting any money on the table to help them do that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Not at this stage.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Not at this stage.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 97-98

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator URQUHART: Oh, maybe later.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: When did you become aware of this problem—a month ago, a year ago?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We've known for a while. I'll take the exact timing on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you say you've known a while, could you characterise that for me?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I might get Mr Windeyer, who's been dealing with it in more detail, to come in and talk to you about it.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Thank you; that would be terrific. When did RBA Holdings notify the minister, the department and the ABC about their decision to no longer repair or maintain regional transmission services for broadcasting and for the public broadcasters? Did the ABC hear this from the government or from RBA Holdings?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We've known about this issue for a while. It has been in play and in train, depending on which people were in what positions at the ABC. I hadn't known about it until recently. We received advice directly from RBAH. They advised the ABC in May this year that they would no longer maintain those transmitters. Earlier, I stated we sent a letter—in the break I was able to confirm we sent that letter to the minister—and previously had meetings with the department.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Mr Windeyer, you'd be aware that this risk of the loss of these transmission sites was flagged pretty much as soon as we went digital as a nation. I remember the debates that emerged in this issue about whether there would be black spots. Mr Windeyer, when did the department and the minister find out about RBA's decision to no longer repair or maintain these services?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think it's as Mr Anderson just pointed out. Mr Anderson said the ABC was informed by RBAH in May, and I think the ABC wrote to the minister shortly thereafter about the issue. That's when we became aware of the position of RBAH.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So the ABC had to tell you before you knew about this?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: RBAH had informed the ABC, and then the ABC let us know the position that RBAH had adopted. We can confirm that for you on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay, if you can let us know when that happened.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
68.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Funding for women's sport	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: This is a question to the department: earlier tonight I asked a question of Mr Anderson in relation to access to funding for women's sport, because of all the conversations and knowledge we know about the \$40 million that the federal government has given to Foxtel. Are you surprised that the ABC has to pay Foxtel to access some of that women's sport that the taxpayer has already funded?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't know whether it is the case that commercial arrangements between the ABC and Foxtel relate directly to content that is part of the funding that we provide to Foxtel. I'm happy to take that question on notice, but I—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It sounds like a bit of a rort, don't you think? The taxpayer funds Foxtel \$40 million, we pay the ABC and the ABC has to keep paying Foxtel. Sounds like a nice cosy deal to me.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: As I said, I am not aware and I can't confirm that it is the case that that is what happens.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay; you can take it on notice. That's all.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 100
69.	5.1	Pratt	Bermagui – loss of service	<p>Senator PRATT: I might pick up on an issue that Senator McMahon was asking about—residents in Bermagui who have lost their SBS broadcast. Kristy McBain has written to the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts about the residents' concern about the loss of SBS broadcastings. I want to ask you, Mr Atkinson: what response have you made to the member for Eden-Monaro? I know it is a letter to the minister but, if the matter has been referred to you, I want to know what you have done about it?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I would have to take it on notice where that correspondence is up to. But in the approach to resolving the issue, Mr Taylor gave a similar answer to Mr Anderson: they are working on resolving that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The issue has also been raised with the minister, so I'm just seeking what action the government is taking to ensure that it's resolved?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I will take that on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 117
70.	5.1	Carr	Editing answers to Questions on Notice	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Has the minister's office ever edited an answer from Australia Post?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Let us take the six months?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: And then on what occasions that has occurred?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We will take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 7

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
71.	5.1	Carr	Letter to Australia Post on regulation relief	<p>Senator Hume: The minister for communications has in fact written to representatives of the Australia Post workforce and also to licensed post office franchisees, to large and small businesses, and also to the print industry, seeking views on that regulatory relief. Obviously there's a review underway and we would not want to pre-empt the results of that review or speculate on the outcomes. The government will finalise those results by the end of the year.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Do we have a copy of the letter?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't know whether it's one letter or whether it's been a phone call or what it looks like.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I thought you used the words 'written to'?</p> <p>Senator Hume: You're absolutely right.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Could we have a copy of the letter?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll take it on notice. I can't see that it's a problem.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 15
72.	5.1	Carr	Peak bodies - future of unaddressed mail service	<p>Senator KIM CARR: So can I ask, Minister, has the minister you represent had representations from the Print & Visual Communications Association or any of the other peak bodies, including unions—have they had any representations concerning the future of unaddressed mail services?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Not that I'm aware of, but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 18
73.	5.1	Urquhart	Minister Fletcher Twitter post – NBN plan	<p>Senator URQUHART: On 12 August, Paul Fletcher, in a morning Twitter tirade, stated: Had we not abandoned Labor's disastrous NBN plan - which would've taken 6-8yrs longer to complete - around 4.5 million Australian homes & businesses in the fixed line footprint would be unable to connect to NBN.</p> <p>Can you tell me the source of the minister's claim that Labor's original fibre rollout would take six to eight years longer?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll have to take the details of the question on notice except to say that that doesn't sound like a Twitter tirade to me. That sounds like a press release, and I think that you're being a little subjective.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No, it was a Twitter tirade.</p> <p>Senator Hume: If it was on Twitter, then it was a tweet. It wasn't necessarily a tirade.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you don't know what that claim—</p> <p>Senator Hume: I've taken it on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Mr Windeyer, was that reference by the minister based on a departmental brief?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Not that I'm aware of, but I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: ... Where does the minister's claim of 4.5 million premises come from? I'm happy for the minister or Mr Windeyer to answer that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: ... What's the source of that figure? How do you get to 4.5 million?</p>	22/10/2020 Page 83-85 & 93

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator Hume: I'll have to take that on notice, unless the department has that information.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Without some context, I'm not sure from where that figure—</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think it's a tweet.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: It's related to the tweet that I spoke about earlier.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Without seeing the context, I'm not sure I can help you with that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Windeyer, was that 4.5 million based on a departmental briefing?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not sure what the 4.5 million premises is—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The minister claimed that 4.5 million premises—</p> <p>Senator Hume: Is this in a tweet?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: would be without—sorry. I'll read the tweet out again, just so you've got the context of the questions. The tweet said: Had we not abandoned Labor's disastrous NBN plan - which would've taken 6-8yrs longer to complete - around 4.5 million Australian homes & businesses in the fixed line footprint would be unable to connect to NBN. That's the context of the thing. ...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: ... I'm asking Mr Windeyer where that claim came from. Was it actually based on departmental briefings?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Not that I'm aware of. I would have to take that on notice to confirm, but I think the—</p> <p>Mr Madsen: Senator, I'm just having a look through the strategic review from December 2013, which was undertaken by NBN Co. That does refer to a peak funding requirement in the order of \$72.6 billion, with a completion date of around 2024.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That's got nothing to do with the 4.5 million homes, Mr Madsen. I thought you were going to point out something about the 4.5 million homes.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think he was referencing the earlier number. We'll take that on notice as to whether—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry, you think he was referencing what?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think he was answering my question, which was very kind of him.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The minister can, I'm sure, go and ask you questions at any time. What's interesting is that, on 9 October 2019, in a speech to CEDA, the minister said, 'A multitechnology mix that would be delivered five years faster than the original plan and would save taxpayers \$30 billion'. What is the source for the minister's claim there of about five years? And why is it five years in that speech?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not sure whether we know the source of those figures, but I'm happy to take that on notice and see if we can provide advice on the figures for that speech.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Does the department provide advice to the minister at all on these sorts of details?</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Mr Windeyer: We provide the minister with advice on all manner of things. I just don't know, off the top of my head, whether we provided advice on the particular figures used in that speech.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm really interested to know. If the minister prepared a speech, who would normally draw up the speech for the minister? Would it come out of the department? Would it come from the minister's office? Would you provide advice and information, facts and figures?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It depends. It can involve some input from the department. It can involve considerable input from the minister's office. So it depends.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you don't have any idea where the issue around that 'five years faster' would have come from?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No. The only thing I would point to is the point Mr Madsen raised, which is that there is the strategic review from 2013, which had some figures in it. But whether those are the figures that we used in that speech, I'm not sure.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is there a figure of five years in that document, Mr Madsen?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: We are just checking.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Maybe while Mr Madsen's checking, Senator Hume, could you seek clarification from the minister's office about exactly where that figure came from? Are you able to do that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think the answer will be the NBN's strategic review from 2013.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You think.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We've already taken that on notice. You've kept asking—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand that. You've taken it on notice. Senator Hume has said she will seek clarification from the minister's office about where that detail came from. Mr Windeyer, you don't know whether the department drafted that aspect of the speech?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No, I don't. I'm happy to take that on notice as well.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 93]</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But what I'm saying is that the \$30 billion claim is complete bogus, isn't it? It's completely wrong.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We took on notice earlier to see whether we could ascertain the sources of the references by the minister, because we weren't certain. Mr Madsen has pointed out in his view two possibilities for the sources of that difference, one of which is the strategic review and the other the corporate plan of 2015. We don't know the answer to precisely what the source was. And the 2015 document, as Mr Madsen just pointed out, suggests a peak funding requirement of between \$74 billion and \$84 billion.</p>	
74.	5.1	Pratt	Australia Post Board appointments	<p>Senator PRATT: When the department was identifying potential candidates, was his inclusion as a nominee for the board suggested by the minister or his office?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 91-92

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Mr Bruce McIver, he's a current non-executive member of the Australia Post board and a former director of the Liberal Party. At the time when the department was identifying potential candidates, was the inclusion of Bruce McIver on your independent list or did it come on the list by referral from the minister or his office?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll have to take that on notice too. I just have a list of who's on the board.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'd like to know, of the current members of the board, which of them originated from a list within the department and which of them were added by the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Deidre Willmott is well known in Western Australia, but I didn't know that she was on the Australia Post board. I certainly know her links to the Liberal Party. Was Ms Willmott suggested by the minister or his office?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I've agreed to take that question in relation to all of them on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Thank you.</p>	
75.	5.1	Pratt	Australia Post Board appointments - past and present role disclosure	<p>Senator PRATT: ... Has the chairman, Mr Lucio Di Bartolomeo, and Mr Mario D'Orazio, ever donated to the Liberal Party?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I presume you're not asking me that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I guess it's a question for the department and the government to know whether they're satisfied with the level of transparency and independence of its board members. So I do expect you to be able to explain the accountability of those relationships. You might know whether they have made donations individually, or not. What's the appropriate level of oversight for a board to behave in a politically independent manner?</p> <p>Ms Rush: I have some information that may be of help in terms of the process that the department goes through. Certainly, the potential appointees or directors are required to go through a private interest declaration process. So that's one area. We also do a range of checks, for example, ASIC checks. When appointed, directors undertake to update their private interests. As a matter of course, if there should be anything that comes to the fore that may embarrass the government or—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could take on notice—and I'm sure all of those members of the board have done so—whether they have all appropriately disclosed any past or present roles within the Liberal Party? I would be grateful to see if that was all appropriately disclosed. Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Hume: The CFO said exactly that today—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Well, I'm glad to hear that. I was absent this morning.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I actually think he took it on notice that he would provide the register.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 92
76.	5.1	Green	PM's Press Conference	1. On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a	28/10/2020

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			<p>Warning of Sophisticated State Based Campaign of Cyber Attacks</p>	<p>range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.” He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.”</p> <p>What steps did the Department/Commonwealth Entity take “to enhance the resilience of their networks” after the Prime Minister’s warning?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.”</p> <p>Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>3. Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>4. Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign? a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>5. Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks? a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>6. Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Department/Commonwealth Entity in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>7. Was advice sought from the Australian Signals Directorate about the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>8. Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>9. Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>10. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Top Four’ mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p>	<p>Written</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>11. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate's 'Essential Eight' mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>12. What was the Department/Commonwealth Entity's total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?</p> <p>13. What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Department/Commonwealth Entity's total IT spend?</p> <p>14. What is the Department/Commonwealth Entity's forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?</p> <p>15. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity's total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister's press conference?</p> <p>16. On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security.</p> <p>17. Was any of this funding allocated to the Department/Commonwealth Entity in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?</p>	
77.	5.1	Siewert	Neville Stevens Review	Can the Department provide a copy of Neville Stevens' review into the classification system? If not, when will this be made publicly available?	29/10/2020 Written
78.	5.1	Siewert	COVID-19	<p>What is the Department doing to engage with community groups and consumers to ensure it understands the issues people are facing with telecommunication service providers during COVID?</p> <p>How many people have been disconnected or had their services restricted during COVID?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
79.	5.1	Siewert	Hardship principles	Who is leading the revision of hardship principles for telecommunications? What consultation has occurred with community and consumer groups in revising the hardship principles for telecommunications? How are these principles currently enforced?	29/10/2020 Written
80.	5.1	Siewert	Consumers with disability	Almost half of consumers with disability (43%) reported having negative experiences with telecommunications providers. Does the Department consider these figures to be acceptable? Would the Department consider this a reflection of the relatively poor consumer protections in the telco space, compared to other sectors?	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
81.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Regulation of online streaming services	<p>1. How will the Government determine which online streaming services will be asked to voluntarily report? a) How will key concepts such as ‘spend’, ‘Australian’ and ‘content’ be defined in the reporting scheme? b) What information will be made public? c) How will the Government ensure the integrity of the data it receives?</p> <p>2. What information has the Government already received from streaming services regarding investment in Australian content?</p> <p>3. What is the timeframe for the Government’s consideration of regulation of streaming services?</p>	29/10/20 Written
82.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Australian content quotas: sub-quota points system	<p>1. Under the new system, a network could meet their obligations by producing just one soap like Home and Away or Neighbours and 50 points of observation documentary. What does this mean for the adult drama industry in Australia if there is no incentive for networks to produce this content?</p> <p>2. What modelling was undertaken on the impact of the new points system for commercial free-to-air television? a) What did that modelling show would be the impact on the overall quantum of Australian drama, children’s and documentary content from the changes? b) What did that modelling show would be the employment impact of the changes? c) What did that modelling show would be the impact on overall Australian content investment from the changes?</p> <p>3. How did the Government arrive at the new figure of 5% for the subscription television new eligible drama expenditure scheme?</p> <p>4. How were the amounts of additional funding for Screen Australia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) arrived at? a) Are they based on an estimate of the impact of changes to quotas and offset rates/eligibility? b) If so, do the amounts fully offset the estimated impact?</p> <p>5. How will the additional funding to Screen Australia and the ACTF stimulate an increase in commissioning activity to offset the declines arising from the reduction of the commercial free-to-air television quotas and subscription television quotas?</p>	29/10/20 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
83.	5.1	Hanson-Young	Producer Offsets	<p>1. What modelling was undertaken to assess the impact on Australian feature film from reducing the rate of Producer Offset from 40% to 30%? What impact did that modelling show?</p> <p>2. Did the Government consult with feature film makers on the proposal to reduce the Producer Offset from 40% to 30%? Who did it consult with and was the specific change canvassed? What did that consultation indicate?</p> <p>3. What modelling was undertake to assess the impact on production financing of removing overheads from eligibility in the Producer Offset? What impact did that modelling show?</p> <p>4. Were screen producers consulted on the specific proposal to remove overheads from eligibility in the Producer Offset? What did that consultation indicate?</p> <p>5. What modelling was undertaken to assess the impact on smaller film and television projects from increasing the monetary QAPE thresholds in the Producer Offset and the PDV Offset? What impact did that modelling show?</p> <p>6. What is the forecast cost of the increase in the Producer Offset for television to 30% over the forward estimates?</p> <p>7. What is the forecast saving from the reduction in the rate of Producer Offset for film to 30% over the forward estimates?</p> <p>8. What is the forecast saving from excluding producer overheads from the Producer Offset and removing the ‘Gallipoli clause’ over the forward estimates?</p> <p>9. What is the forecast saving from increasing the monetary QAPE thresholds for the Producer and PDV Offsets over the forward estimates?</p>	29/10/20 Written
84.	5.1	Patrick	Enhancing Online Safety Act	<p>Concurrent reviews of the ‘Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015’ and two of the schedules of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 were conducted in 2018, with the report published in February 2019.</p> <p>1. What’s the current status of updating the: a. Enhancing Online Safety Act? b. Broadcasting Services Act?</p>	30/10/2020 Written
85.	5.1	McCarthy	Regional Print Publications	<p>The Government is providing support for regional print publications of \$48.7 million allocated through the Public Interest News Gathering program. Will any part of that funding allocation be available to community-controlled media? Why is the Government prioritising print over more immediate forms of distributing information such as radio and television broadcasting, who have just demonstrated their vital role in getting information to communities immediately through the COVID-19 pandemic? How will this grant program align with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap priority to build the community-controlled sector for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations?</p>	11/11/20 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
86.	5.1	McCarthy	Indigenous Digital Inclusion Program	In response to the 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review, the Government agreed with the recommendation to establish a targeted Indigenous Digital Inclusion program with a focus on access, affordability and digital ability to be developed in partnership with Indigenous communities. An announcement was made that the Indigenous Digital Inclusion program would be forthcoming, but no timeframe or funding allocation was announced to support it. Has there been any progress toward this objective? What is the proposed timeframe on the Indigenous Digital Inclusion program rollout?	11/11/20 Written
87.	5.1	McCarthy	Remote communities' digital access	Will the Government consider rolling out the NBN's public interest premise product to remote communities to provide Skymuster Plus digital access services, enabling remote communities to access Government services online without incurring data charges?	11/11/20 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
88.	6.1	Hanson-Young	RISE program allocation	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We might have a bit more understanding as to why decisions are made, though. Heaven help us, we need some transparency in this place. What modelling or what information did you use to provide advice to the government that it should be \$75 million? Where did that figure come from?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think I've taken my answer as far as I can go with respect to advice into the ERC process.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay; so you've given that advice to government?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Based on what? On modelling? On consultation? I could almost do your job for you at this point. Come on, tell us!</p> <p>CHAIR: Order! Senator Hanson-Young, I realise you may be frustrated—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am frustrated.</p> <p>CHAIR: but you still need to treat public servants with respect.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, apologies, Chair. Mr Atkinson, you can see that I am frustrated here. You didn't just come up with \$75 million, or did you?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: As I have said on multiple occasions, I won't reference the 75. Our advice into government considerations of these things always takes into account lots of policy considerations, the state of the sector, the size of the issue we're addressing and those types of things, consultations with the sector, our understanding of impacts and what's happening—like all policy advice. I'm not sure if Dr Arnott has anything to add in terms of the types of considerations that we looked at in this case.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did you do any modelling that \$75 million or thereabouts would be sufficient?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'd have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We worked through the usual costing process that happens through ERC. You will understand that the minister held many hundreds of meetings with the sector through this period. I met with representatives from the sector very regularly. I had a roundtable with sector representatives, sector leaders, every fortnight with Adrian Collette. So we consulted very extensively. We drew on that consultation to provide advice. The government made a decision to set the fund at \$75 million.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 47

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
89.	6.1	Hanson-Young	Project grants	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Will people who are successful get what they asked for, or will you set an independent figure for them?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: That's still to be determined, because we have to assess their budgets and make sure that we are happy that it's providing value for money for the Commonwealth, for the taxpayer. There may be some negotiation on final amounts provided, but generally we try to provide what is requested.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Out of what has been put forward, the amounts that have been requested, what does that add up to?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I haven't done that calculation, but I can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'd be very interested to know.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You can preface that with saying that not all of them are going to be eligible, but I'd still like to know the quantity that has been asked for.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I can provide that for you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 48
90.	6.1	Hanson-Young	Screen Australia funds	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes; that's the point. So nothing new for the ABC has been put on the table, despite the fact that the government expects the ABC to pick up the slack when it comes to kids' TV.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Senator, I redirect your attention to the fact that they would be eligible for the \$30 million on page 141 of budget paper 2.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But they would have to be able to access their own funds to access that. They would have to commit their own funds in order to access the Screen Australia money?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes. It will be a management decision for the ABC. It depends on their internal allocations grant.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm basing my questions on the evidence given by Mr Anderson last night.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I don't think we discussed this issue with him, though.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I did.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: About the Screen Australia funding?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, I did.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Okay; sorry, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Anyway, I'm happy for you to take on notice any other contribution you'd like me to understand in relation to that.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 57-58

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
91.	6.1	Urquhart	National Gallery of Australia staff bonuses	<p>Senator URQUHART: I have one question and I want to throw to Dr Arnott, if I can, please. Can you tell me: did any staff at the National Gallery receive bonuses in the current or the last financial year?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I think, given that the director of the National Gallery is funded according to the Remuneration Tribunal's Principal Executive Office scheme, he would be eligible for a performance bonus. I can't tell you right now whether he's been paid one, but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could. Are you able to get that back to me in the course of the day?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes. It will be reported in the National Gallery's annual report, so I will get that information for you.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: He's the only staff there that is eligible?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I believe that's right, but again I'd have to check that for you.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 67
92.	ACMA	Hanson- Young	Quota system	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: This is a pretty significant change. When was the last time the quota system was adapted in this way?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I would have to take that on notice. It has been some time.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 65

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
93.	ACMA	Pratt	Captioning	<p>Senator PRATT: That'll certainly be an issue for us to pursue. Are there other sectors or regulations you've agreed to exercise forbearance on? Have any requests for suspension of regulations or change in assessment been refused or not agreed to by ACMA?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: There has been a broad range of consideration, by the other party, of requests. Many we have agreed; some we have not agreed. In the broadcasting space, for example, we have received requests for additional forbearance on things like captioning, and we have not made a decision on that. We have not made any change to those obligations. In the broader—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can I quickly ask: what's the difficulty with captioning at this time?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: The difficulty with captioning during the very beginning of the COVID period was not being able to get people into a studio to do the captioning.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But that shouldn't be quite so relevant now?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: That seems to have resolved itself. In the telecommunications space, we exercise a broad range of forbearance, particularly for the telecommunications sector in areas such as their consumer protections. At that time, as you will probably know, many of the telcos' internationally based call centres shut down both for dealing with customer service but also for technical support. So we—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I can see there's quite an exhaustive array of areas. Could you provide on notice the list of any variations to regulations or forbearance on their implementation?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I would say that all our decisions are actually on our website. We've made sure that they're all very transparent.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You've highlighted some decisions that have been refused or not agreed to, where requests have been made. Could you provide that on notice as well?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Yes. We were very focused on making sure those that we did agree to were COVID related, rather than just any general request.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What are the legislative powers that enable you to exercise this level of discretion or agree not to enforce legislation? Which provision of the act is it under?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: It's a broad regulatory philosophy that regulators can, in certain circumstances, make decisions for forbearance, so we are able to do that. We have the discretion to do that for the broad range of legislation for which we're responsible.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can you point me to the relevant part of the act? I know that you've highlighted that that's usual practice, but—</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I don't believe there's a particular issue in the act. It's a broader ability for regulators to have discretion, but I'm happy to provide additional detail for you on notice.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 73</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
94.	ACMA	McKenzie	<i>Fight for Planet A</i> program	<p>Senator McKENZIE: My questions relate to a series that recently featured on the ABC, entitled <i>Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge</i>. Essentially, this program was going to take a positive approach to reducing our carbon footprint, using 'shocking statistics and revealing stunts', according to the blurb. It was also going to look at the carbon footprint of our food—where we get it from, how it is produced et cetera. Were there any complaints made about this program, given the criticism it received from the red meat industry in Australia?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I will ask Ms Zurnamer if she's aware of complaints about the program.</p> <p>Ms Zurnamer: I'm not aware of complaints about the program, but that doesn't mean we didn't get some. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Given that it presented inaccurate and outdated evidence under the guise of being an educative program, I would be very surprised if you hadn't received complaints.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We will certainly take that on notice for you. I would add, though, that, under the co-regulatory arrangements, complaints need to go to the broadcaster first. So it might be a question that you might ask of the ABC when they appear.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I will be asking the ABC; don't worry about that.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 73-74
95.	ACMA	Siewert	Investigations into international affiliates	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. As part of that process, how are you going to deal with the issue around gambling affiliates—the third parties? I've had it put to me that where people are choosing to self-exclude at the moment outside of this process, gambling affiliates are going around that process. Will that be addressed in the Self-Exclusion Register process?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I don't have that detail in front of me, but Ms Rainsford, who is in the room with you, may have some additional detail or a comment to make on your question.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: In terms of the question around gambling affiliates and the NSER, I might refer that to my colleague Jeremy Fenton, who is on the line. I was listening to the questions earlier today. There is a related piece of that puzzle which goes to our responsibilities around the Interactive Gambling Act.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes; I have some questions around that, too.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: If you don't mind, I might anticipate at least some of those.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Go ahead.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: The authority has set a compliance priority for the ACMA in 2021 around online casinos targeting Australians. As a piece of that work, we have done some analysis around gambling affiliates in that market; that has involved a range of different activities looking at who is operating and targeting Australians here. We've identified, I think, about 20 potential gambling affiliates where there are questions about whether they are operating in compliance with the Interactive Gambling Act, and we intend to look at those through our compliance and enforcement lens in the course of this year.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: The rest of this year?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: This financial year—yes.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 74-75

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator SIEWERT: To look at—</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I think, at the moment, we have six investigations already underway.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: You said you had 20 potential. Are the six investigations into international affiliates or Australian based—</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I don't know specifically on that one. I could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: If you could take that on notice, that would be great.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Yes.</p>	
96.	ACMA	Siewert	Investigations into international affiliates - Budget	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Do you have a budget for your compliance regulation processes?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Not a specific budget as such. I obviously have a budget in my division, and I have a number of responsibilities around compliance and enforcement across gambling—broadcasting telco is in there. We have a specific team—that is, the interactive gambling team—in Ms Zurnamer's branch whose role is meeting our responsibilities under the Interactive Gambling Act.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What size is the team? You can take that on notice if you can't tell me this.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Yes, I'll take that on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 75
97.	ACMA	Siewert	Online gambling complaints	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Over the past year, how many complaints have you received regarding online gambling websites?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I've got the numbers in annual blocks related to the scheme, so the data that I've got is for the period 14 September 2019 to 13 September 2020. We received 490 contacts, of which 408 were complaints. The remaining 82 were inquiries we received.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Have they been resolved?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I might refer that to Ms Zurnamer.</p> <p>Ms Zurnamer: I would imagine that, in that period, a proportion have been resolved but also a proportion may not have been resolved. So, if you would like to exact detail on that, we could provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That would be fantastic, if you could. These may all need to be taken on notice. Have you blocked any as a result of breaches of the Interactive Gambling Act?</p> <p>CHAIR: In fact, if you could take all of these on notice, that would be great.</p> <p>Ms Zurnamer: Yes, we have, and we can provide the detail.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Have you had an increase in illegal offshore gambling websites appearing and being blocked?</p> <p>CHAIR: On notice, if you can.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, on notice. If so, how many? Have you received any complaints regarding children being able to access online gambling websites? If so, how many? That is the end of my on-notice questions. Thank you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 76

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
98.	ACMA	Siewert	Interactive Gambling Act	Under the Interactive Gambling Act, it is illegal for gambling operators to provide credit to Australian-based customers or to help them access credit. Are you finding that gambling operators are using loopholes to get around this ban and offer credit in other ways?	29/10/20 Written
99.	ACMA	Siewert	Budget	What budget does ACMA have to promote the self-exclusion register or provide community education and awareness once it is operational?	29/10/20 Written
100.	ACMA	Siewert	COVID – gambling websites	Throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, has there been an increase in illegal offshore gambling websites appearing and being blocked by ACMA?	29/10/20 Written
101.	ACMA	Siewert	Data Collection	Does ACMA have plans in place to increase data collection and publication regarding complaints about telecommunications companies? If not, why not?	29/10/20 Written
102.	OeSC & ACMA	Patrick	Online Content	<p>It's understood that through the Broadcasting Services Act [1992] the ACMA and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner has responsibility for regulating some online content. In the same context that Act outlines a long list of objects, which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure designated content/hosting service providers respect community standards in relation to content • to provide a means for addressing complaints about certain internet content; • to restrict access to certain internet content that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; • to protect children from exposure to internet content that is unsuitable for children; <p>1. Can the ACMA and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner clarify what online content they have regulatory oversight of?</p> <p>2. Does the 'online content' include the content associated with the online/web-based services such as facebook, snapchat, twitter, Mylol, tinder, etc?</p> <p>3. What powers has the ACMA and Office of the eSafety Commissioner exercised in relation to the 'online content' (as per questions 1 &2 above) in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FY 2019-20? b. FY 2018-19? c. FY 2017-18? 	30/10/2020 Written
103.	OeSC & ACMA	Patrick	Community Awareness	<p>1. Does the ACMA and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner have a measure of the level of awareness that exists within the community regarding the ACMA's role and its powers in the area of online content? a. If so, what is the measure and how is it quantified?</p> <p>2. Has there been a 'campaign' to establish or raise community awareness? a. If so, in what forms or forms was it?</p> <p>3. Are there any intended for the future? a. What form will it take?</p>	30/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
104.	ACMA	Patrick	Accuracy of Information in Media	<p>There is some concern about the level of accuracy in reporting, in general, with some action being taken in the online arena. The ACMA released a position paper in June 2020, about a voluntary code of practice for online disinformation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has the response from industry been thus far? 2. Voluntary codes have not been highly successful in other areas, e.g. the Australian Business Council's 'Supplier Payment Code of Conduct'. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why pursue a voluntary code? b. What's the real incentive for the media industry to participate? 3. What could realistically be done when a 'signatory or participant' doesn't comply with the code? 4. Noting this issue is not restricted to being just an 'online' issue, what will be done to address the issue across other mediums/forms? 	30/10/2020 Written
105.	ACMA	Patrick	Codes of Practice	<p>From the Annual Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ACMA carries responsibility for regulating compliance in a number of areas, one of which is 'codes of practice'. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are these 'codes of practice' enforceable? b. If so, what does the ACMA practically do in this area? 	30/10/2020 Written
106.	ACMA	McMahon	Request for Expression of Interest process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) notify any parties of the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) process for the provision of the National Self-Exclusion Register on Interactive Wagering? 2. If the ACMA did notify interested parties – How did the ACMA choose which parties to notify, and why were ClubsNSW excluded, given they already operate a multiple-venue gambling self-exclusion register? 3. Given the small number of self-exclusion register operators, would it have been a better approach for ACMA to inform those parties of the existence of the REOI rather than only advertise the REOI on the AusTender website? 4. The ACMA's REOI concluded before passage of the legislation providing for the tender process. Why did the ACMA choose to close its process before the legislation was passed? 	25/11/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
107.	ABC	Green	Commonwealth ministers use of the ABC logo	<p>Senator GREEN: Okay, thank you. Mr Anderson, would you please advise the committee if it's permissible for Commonwealth ministers to use the ABC logo?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's a good question. Normally when people wish to use the ABC Lissajous, they seek permission to do so. When it comes to government ministers using the logo, I don't know that I've been asked, but I do know that they are used.</p> <p>CHAIR: You can take that on notice if you're not sure.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take it on notice if there is a requirement, Senator.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Did the minister clear the use of the logo through either yourself or the department for this ABC budget explainer?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know. So I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Do you know if the ABC provided any analysis contained in this document or was involved in the production of the document itself?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When you say 'the document', do you mean the tweet?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: The LinkedIn document that is linked in the tweet.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I would suggest not.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Mr Anderson, would you take on notice as well whether using the ABC logo in this way without permission is a breach of any law—for example, trademark or copyright?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 78-79
108.	ABC	Green	ABC Budget funding explainer	<p>Senator GREEN: Mr Anderson, on 7 October 2020, after the budget was released, the minister tweeted a tweet with some text that included these words: 'I've updated my ABC funding explainer which sets out all the key issues, including a triennial funding arrangement, all of the budget decisions made in the lead-up to the current ABC funding triennium commencing, and which is the right budget document to use.' The tweet included a link to a LinkedIn post which contained the ABC funding explainer and it included the ABC logo right there. I've got copies in the room to table if that is required.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Could I have a copy here for tabling?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, was there a question?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes. I was waiting for everyone to have that document. Minister, why would the Minister for Communications and Arts say that a document he created is the right budget document to use, when it's not actually a budget document?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I couldn't answer that. I will take it on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 78

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
109.	ABC	Fawcett	Labor Party use of ABC logo	CHAIR: I'm happy for those to be tabled. But I would ask that if you're taking those on notice, Mr Anderson, that you would at the same time take on notice the same question about the Australian Labor Party's campaign, 'Save the ABC', where they used the logo. Did they consult with you and get permission before they used the logo. I'm not sure that this line of questioning adds to the national discussion very much. Senator Green, you have the call.	21/10/2020 Page 79
110.	ABC	Hanson- Young	<i>Coronacast series</i>	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much has it cost the ABC to create the <i>Coronacast</i> series? Mr Anderson: I'd have to take that on notice. It's a small team that's working with Norman Swan, who I think has done an excellent job throughout this whole period. Podcasts don't usually cost a lot of money, but I will come back to you on that. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Also do you know how many downloads <i>Coronacast</i> has had? Mr Anderson: I can't give you that offhand, but I know that it has been well patronised by the Australian public. I know that those download numbers are quite large. I probably have it in my bag, but I won't waste the committee's time searching for it right now. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That's fine. You can take it on notice.	21/10/2020 Page 83-84
111.	ABC	Van	ABC funding numbers	Senator VAN: Sorry, Mr Anderson. May I interrupt you? Through you, Chair—Mr Anderson, that's not the question I was asking. Given that we agree on the numbers that there has been a \$16 million increase in your funding, which you agreed, and you agree that there was a minus 0.3 per cent inflation rate over that 12 months, according to the ABS, therefore it's hard to argue that there hasn't been a roughly 1.9 per cent increase in the ABC's funding in real terms over that period. ... Senator VAN: Yes or no? Mr Anderson: I'm not getting that number on the fly, so I can't agree with you because I can't reproduce that number. CHAIR: You could take it on notice and, Senator Van, your last question for this bracket, please. Senator VAN: As long as I get assurance that that funding is coming on notice, I think we can all agree that ABC's funding has gone up in both real and nominal terms over the last 12 months.	21/10/2020 Page 87

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
112.	ABC	Green	ABC job cuts	<p>Senator GREEN: Since about 2014 there has been quite a long list of services that've been axed. We don't need to go through all of them. You're probably are the same as me. You have a look at Twitter—or maybe you try to stay off Twitter! I have a look at these announcements coming through from journalists who have worked for the ABC for many, many years. I am not going to name any individual, but you see numbers like: 'After 24 years I am leaving the ABC.' After 20, 30, 15 years at the ABC I am going to be leaving the ABC. Job cuts like this have an impact on the expertise that the ABC has in its wheelhouse. You've got 229 jobs that will be cut. Have you had an attempt at counting up the years of experience that will be lost through these job cuts?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, I haven't. When it comes to people that are at the ABC there are two things. One is that we will generally have low turnover, which means people have lengthy careers at the ABC. But I will agree with you, whether someone is a forced redundancy or whether someone has expressed an interest in it, it is still a traumatic time for the people themselves and the people around them. So it is a difficult time that we have been going through, yes.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Would you be able to take on notice, if you don't have the information in front of you, what the years of experience are? If you can calculate that up for us in some sort of measure, and also the seniority of the reporters or producers and executives that've been made redundant or chosen a voluntary redundancy through this process? That might be a hard question to take on notice, because can we really measure that type of loss to the ABC and, I guess, to our media landscape?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In part, yes, there are things that are intangible about that. But I can try to count up the years of experience. When you say 'seniority', I will look at a way of demonstrating the banding which people were in when they left with regard to how senior they were against that number of 229.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 87
113.	ABC	Green	Constituent concern	<p>Senator GREEN: I have a few quick questions to follow-up on a constituent concern about coverage of a recent bombing of, I think, Ganja in Azerbaijan. Is there someone from the editorial team that's near or around the table that we can ask some questions to? These are some process questions. What steps were taken by the ABC? Have you received any complaints about the recent reporting and labelling of that report as an 'Armenian hack'? There's been a bit of contention about what the premise of that reporting was, and also some claims have been made by the press secretary to the minister of defence in Armenia.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Not to my knowledge. I did receive a letter—I can't remember who it was from—relating to the coverage of what was happening in Armenia. It encouraged the ABC to make sure the story was covered. I don't believe that was a complaint. Since then, I can't say I know of any complaint that has come in. Mr McMurtrie?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I don't know of any complaint either. I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 88

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114.	ABC	Pratt	East Goulburn residents concern	<p>Senator PRATT: ... Mr Anderson, residents from East Goulburn have written to the ABC about their broadcast black spot. I know that East Goulburn and Bermagui are currently without ABC and SBS reception. Could you explain why that is and when the signals dropped out for those locations? How many other areas of regional Australia are affected by ABC or SBS signal dropouts in relation to those transmission issues?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't give you the exact date. I can give you some information, though. The ABC has never owned, operated or maintained those transmitters. They are operated by RBAH. RBAH have transmitters that carry both ABC and SBS at, I believe, 77 sites across regional Australia. This is one. They wrote to us saying they were no longer going to maintain those transmitters. We wrote to the department and the minister, I believe—I will confirm on notice whether it was both or just the minister's office—expressing concern about this. People quote CPI at me and therefore costs going up. This would otherwise end up being an additional cost if the ABC—and the SBS, for that matter—was going to take on the maintenance of these transmitters. The ABC and the SBS are now in constructive discussion with RBAH about a solution.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 88
115.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Job Losses	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Anderson, I just want to go back to this issue of job losses which, sadly, you've had to announce. Would you be able to take on notice a list of who those people are, their qualifications and the role that they had, so that we can have a bit of an understanding as to where these job losses have occurred—whether they're in production, admin, front of house and that type of thing?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: To be honest, simply because people have access to what we provide on notice, I think anyone affected by this has a right to privacy. I'm happy to give you some sort of aggregation of where people came from, around the country, the type of job they had et cetera.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perfect. I understand. If you could do that, that would be helpful. I just want to understand exactly where these job losses are being felt.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 89

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116.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Arrangement with Foxtel	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The arrangement you have with Foxtel, is that a commercial arrangement?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Does that cost money?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have an arrangement with Foxtel. Some of it is commercial in confidence, but we'll be able to provide some detail to you on notice about how that works, with regard to what we get—with regard to W-League, for instance, and what we pay for, with regard to, say, the Matildas as an international game. One has a much higher price than the other.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But there is some cost attached.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: There is some cost attached, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm happy for you to take on notice the details, but let me be clear: the federal government has paid money to Foxtel to provide coverage of women's sport, which means the ABC has to pay Foxtel in order to access that coverage.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Certainly, for the international matches, yes.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 90
117.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Funding for children's television	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: ... With the changes that have been announced in relation to the quotas and requirements of kids content for commercial broadcasters, is it fair to say that ABC will be left carrying the baby?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you received any extra funding to help make sure you can cover the cost of creating good quality Australian children's television?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, not recently. We received additional funding back in 2007 or 2008, I think, but we certainly haven't received any additional funding lately. I can confirm this on notice, but I believe we spent approximately \$18 million or \$19 million on high-quality children's programming, from animation through to what we have as scripted drama for older children.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 90
118.	ABC	Bragg	Code of conduct	<p>Senator BRAGG: Are you aware the BBC boss Tim Davie has put in place a code of conduct which deals with impartiality and he said to a House of Commons committee recently: 'Enforcement actions will be very clear. We will be able to take disciplinary action. We will be able to take people off Twitter. I know people want to see hard action on this.' Are you aware of this development?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I am. I've followed Tim Davie's, I guess, ascension into the role of Director-General of the BBC. I have been watching that with interest. I will add that we don't always follow what the BBC does. I have to say—and Paul's probably going to say it—I think our policies and procedures are more robust than theirs anyway to begin with—certainly when it comes to our editorial policies. I don't what he's dealing with that leads him to do that. I will also add that I don't know whether you can make someone get off their</p>	21/10/2020 Page 92

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>personal social media account. I think there are certain rights that people have here. There's a test to be made there. I don't know how you can do that.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: If someone is working for you and tweeting about their work that they do for you, then I would have thought that would come into your realm.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: So, under edpols, we have very strict expectations, particularly with social media, when we have official ABC sites, if you like, or channels, or distribution points that sit on social media products. Then people have their own personal social media accounts. I've recently written to ABC employees making it clear there is no expectation that they have one on behalf of the ABC—because I think that was different years ago. In the advent of social media, I think there was an expectation that our staff did have a personal social media account to raise their profile. I think social media is an evolving beast. Every organisation at the moment is struggling with how the separation of what is someone's right to be able to do on their own personal account versus what they're doing that reflects on the people that they work for.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: I think we should be clear here. If I'm an ABC journalist working at your outfit and I claim to be an ABC journalist on my Twitter handle, then I'm an ABC staffer and I should be captured by the policy, I would have thought.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, so there are expectations with regard to our staff with regard to their conduct and their personal use of social media. That is in our code of conduct, yes.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: I might get you to table that or provide it on notice. Tim Davie, who we discussed before, as far as I can see, is dealing with staff at the BBC who are going outside the bounds of normal conduct in their role on social media and they're making impartial comments. That's what he is saying that he's proposing to rein in—just for your context. Is this something that you would consider doing in Australia, under your rules and edicts?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Under our policy there are a few things that sit with it that we're asking people to comply with: not to mix personal and professional use of social media which brings the ABC into disrepute—</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Not to mix?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, not to mix. Also, not to compromise the effectiveness of work—that is, what people do on social media shouldn't impede their ability to otherwise be impartial, particularly in their reporting. That's an expectation. Finally, not to imply ABC endorsement of personal views and not to disclose confidential information. Those four—</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Very sensible stuff.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. That is something that does sit within our code of conduct.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
119.	ABC	Bragg	The New Daily	<p>Senator BRAGG: On this question of conduct and impartiality, what sort of arrangement do you have in place with <i>The New Daily</i>?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice and get back to you.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: You don't know?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Well, I know that we have, on <i>The New Daily</i>, News in 90 Seconds, or we have a short-clip version of it. But no. I would need to confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: It's a commercial arrangement, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have commercial arrangements with lots of other outlets. It's precisely the nature of the arrangement that I can't tell you. We have arrangements from online to larger media organisations.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 93
120.	ABC	McLachlan	ABC efficiency benchmarking	<p>Senator McLACHLAN: In relation to efficiency, because that was the intent of some of the questions of one of my select colleagues, how do you benchmark yourself in the efficiency of your organisation against other public broadcasters or particular industry classes?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We do that in a number of ways. We are actually required to be an efficient broadcaster. We're always searching for efficiency. Efficiency can happen through things like work practices and technological change. More recently we engaged external consultants to help us benchmark ourselves with other public broadcasters around the world to look at what they do, how they do it and how efficient they are. Of course, we're all a bit different in the way we operate, but we do look to find benchmarks that help us find efficiencies.</p> <p>Senator McLACHLAN: Are they publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Not always. Again, employing a consultant to go and work and to do research to then find information—some of that information is confidential. I'm sure there's some information that we could release that otherwise benchmarks us against other public broadcasters. Again, the circumstances are slightly different in the way that we operate.</p> <p>Senator McLACHLAN: Yes, I appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Say, CBC, BBC—</p> <p>Senator McLACHLAN: I appreciate the differences, but where would I look if I wanted to review your efficiency to understand how you review your own efficiency, without going to confidential information?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you on that one. I'll think about that. Of course, there have been publicly available efficiency reviews that come and go from time to time.</p> <p>Senator McLACHLAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: And then there's what we do ourselves. So, I'll look at what information I can give you.</p> <p>Senator McLACHLAN: I'm thinking of on an ongoing basis, from your perspective.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sure.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 94

121.	ABC	Antic	ABC survey and methodology	<p>Senator ANTIC: I am interested in exploring whether you believe the ABC is living up to the charter and reflecting the national identity and cultural diversity of Australia. I notice that pages 48 and 49 of the report talk about 'quality', 'distinctiveness' and 'trust,' and you refer there to the ABC corporate tracking program. I am interested in learning a little more about that. It says, 'The program is conducted three times per year among a nationally representative sample of people aged 18 to 75 years via an online methodology.' There isn't much detail about that methodology and who the people are you survey and where they come from. Geographically, there isn't much in the report. They are obviously key points and I am going to put some of that on notice to you because I want to know a little more about that.</p> <p>The measures that come from that survey suggest that, this year, 72 per cent of people believe the ABC is accurate and impartial when reporting news and current affairs and 76 per cent of people believe the ABC reflects the cultural diversity of the Australian community. Are you comfortable with those figures in that survey? Do you think that is an accurate reflection of the state of play in Australia generally at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Do you think it's an accurate reflection of the state of play? When we do the surveys—and they are important to us—some of those measures that we have sit directly against the KPIs of the organisation, particularly around quality, distinctiveness and trust. When it comes to reflecting the diversity of the country that we have—and diversity in all forms—that's why that measure is there. The fact that 76 per cent of the country think that we do reflect the diversity is a good score but, of course, it means that there is always room for improvement.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: You think it's an accurate figure?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's a figure from the survey.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: Are you able to produce those reports? You can do that on notice if you like.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I will produce some reports on notice for you with regard to that. Just so I am clear, you also wanted some of the methodology that sits behind the survey.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: Yes, thank you, and I will perhaps spell out some of the categories. The reason I raise that is you might be aware of a survey from earlier in the year, February 2020, from the Institute of Public Affairs which found that only 32 per cent of Australians think the ABC speaks for them. How do you reconcile those two?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't think that I can. I think you're right, in that the methodology is important. The questions that are put to people are important and the range of people who they're put to is also important—it influences the results that you receive. I don't know what the methodology is that the IPA used to obtain that, but I will provide on notice to you more detail around our survey and the methodology that sits behind it.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 94-95
122.	ABC	Antic	Transition leave	<p>Senator ANTIC: Alright, thank you. I also note that in January of this year—I think it was the 22nd—the Fair Work Commission endorsed a brand-new enterprise agreement. It was</p>	21/10/2020 Page 96-97

the ABC, of course, who was the applicant and it's now in effect, obviously—since 22 January. I want to look at some of the provisions in there, just quickly. In particular, it would seem to me to be the case that an employee will get four weeks leave a year, 18 days paid carers leave, three days compassionate leave, one day to attend NAIDOC Week, in amongst the long service special study leave, which is very generous.

I'm interested in clause 41.1.7, which deals with what I think is a new category: gender transition leave. It seems to me that an employee who identifies as transgender and who's undertaking a transition will have access to up to 10 days transition leave. That's in addition to those categories I just outlined. Is that the case?

Mr Anderson: I can answer that, Senator. Yes, I believe it is.

Senator ANTIC: Can I understand some of the rationale for that? Was that the result of a survey or a study or something of that nature, or was this just a staff-led initiative?

Mr Anderson: I'll confirm everything I'm about to say on notice. We did look at not just what we had, we looked at—and, again, in any negotiation between the ABC and unions representing the staff. There are other agencies, from my understanding, and government agencies that have this leave and we've benchmarked against them. We pride ourselves on trying to create an inclusive culture. We have a diversity and inclusion plan that sits alongside that employment agreement, and we report on what we do in order to create an inclusive culture for our staff at the ABC.

Senator ANTIC: Can you tell me how many have taken it up, to date?

Mr Anderson: I'm going to provide that to you on notice, but I know that the number is very low. I think it might be two.

Senator ANTIC: I'll also ask you the costs associated with that projected and actual figure. We'll put those on notice. Perhaps that's the easier way.

Mr Anderson: Again, it's quite small but I will provide that to you. We looked at those in consideration as it went through with the decision to put that in the employment agreement.

Senator ANTIC: That is a separate category that's been carved out, specifically, for that purpose. I'm just interested. For example, if an employee were to injure their knee playing football on the weekend, what additional leave can that employee access over and above their sick leave so that they are also—given that 80 per cent or thereabouts of Australian adults play sport on the weekend, is there a particular category of leave where the ABC has used taxpayer funds to cater for them?

Mr Anderson: The leave provisions that you read out—again, examples are good because I can use those examples on what I provide back to you on notice. We have personal leave that's available to people to take, depending on their circumstances and how they see fit. In the case of a physical injury, we would provide leave on presentation of a medical certificate or some other evidence that would suggest they would have access to that leave. In some circumstances—and, again, I'll confirm this on notice—when people exceed their amount, we have options that provide discretionary leave that sits with their depending on it. People will use some of their personal leave as annual leave or use it for sick leave, particularly through the pandemic. We've revisited quite a lot of those, depending on the leave that people have needed to take. So there's quite a degree of—but within the bound of what other agencies do, with regard to people taking leave.

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				Senator ANTIC: But there is no specific—they would have to dip into their leave rather than access a special category, if you injured your knee, is what I'm saying.	
123.	ABC	Antic	Email – Rebekah Donaldson	<p>Senator ANTIC: Okay. There is actually an email—I think you're aware of the email—from Rebekah Donaldson, the people and culture officer. I don't have a date on this one, but it's relatively recent. It went to ABC staff. She said, 'We've begun overhauling recruitment processes to enhance our ability to recruit for diversity.' And then she outlined some categories, and they are reflected I think in the report: 15 per cent culturally and linguistically diverse, content makers and so on, employees with disabilities, Indigenous and all that sort of stuff. Are you able to tell me on what basis the categories were determined—those specific categories and the numbers?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. We've put our methodology and our thinking behind the targets that we've set on this together before, so that is easy for me to provide to you on notice, which I will.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: They're largely in reflection of the make-up of the community we serve and the Australian public. There are some exceptions to that. For instance, the target of 20 per cent of our technologists being women is reflective of the fact that women are under-represented in that particular field. So we'll work with universities to try to ensure that we can lift the representation of gender against technologists. So it's not reflective necessarily of the population but it is—</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: I want to come to that.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Antic, sorry, your time has expired.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 97
124.	ABC	McKenzie	<i>Fight for Planet A program</i>	<p>Senator McKENZIE: How much did the program cost to produce?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Okay, no worries.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 101

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125.	ABC	McKenzie	Use of <i>Fight for Planet A</i> program as teaching tool	<p>Senator McKENZIE: The content sale this program packaged for—I'm not quite sure how that works. Do people buy the content? Can they download it? How does it work in actuality?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It depends on who owns the rights and how it is done. I know it is an independently produced program, so it's an external co-commission for the ABC.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Yes, you've commissioned that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: So there will be a contributor, but I can't tell you whether it is ABC Commercial or whether it is an external distributor. We will have a package of rights for people to see it here, and then they will be selling the rights for distribution overseas or domestically on Foxtel or wherever they can put it.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Does that mean it's available for purchase by schools for use in the curriculum?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Schools work differently. They don't buy it.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: They get it for nix, right?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, because they go through the screen rights legislation. There is a licence that schools pay to have access to all media.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Do we have any data to actually understand whether this has been downloaded or used in classrooms as a teaching tool?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't, Senator, but I will come back to you on notice with what I do know—where we know it is played. I will just come back to you on notice with what up-to-date data I have with regard to where it has gone.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Thank you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 102
126.	ABC	Green	Women's sport	<p>Senator GREEN: I just have one question around the women's sport issue, Mr Anderson. Recently Australia and New Zealand won the rights to the Women's World Cup in 2023. Do you think we'll be able to watch the Women's World Cup in 2023 on the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know. There are separate deals for both radio and television. If there were one that far in advance, it would be for radio, but I would have to check on notice for television. I think the rights that we've got for that do not extend that far. I think we've only got 12 months of rights for W-League and for Matildas with Foxtel. I'll confirm on notice, but I don't think we've got rights that far ahead.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Will you have to pay Foxtel for those rights as well?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's a combined deal, which would be commercial in confidence, but it's a deal that is for both the provision of W-League and Matildas, as well as A-League and the Socceroos. It's a prescribed amount of games that we have for that amount of money. As I said, it only goes a certain distance into the future, noting that there are some schedule changes to the internationals, hence you've seen something appear on <i>ABC ME</i> at the moment, because we're not always in charge of that. But that's the access we have at the moment. I will confirm on notice but I believe we've only got one year in advance—not through to the World Cup.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 103

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127.	ABC	Green	Programs being delivered in different languages	<p>Senator GREEN: You mentioned the different languages that the ABC delivers programs and services in. Would you be able to take on notice, if you don't have them at hand, which programs and services those are? Given the constrained budget and the charter, how do you deal with a situation where there might be duplication between the ABC and the SBS? Is that part of those discussions that you have as well?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's part of those discussions. I think I've received one letter in the past from Mr Taylor. It was concerned to ensure that we were separate in what services we were providing, and we've met and discussed that. I can provide that for you, on notice, Senator—no problem.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Are any of the languages that you listed First Nations languages? I see you've got the list there in front of you.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When it comes to Indigenous language we have undertaken an Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan, which means that we've committed to do certain things. We will do some things that are in language wherever we are around the country, and they can be simple greetings. We have a couple of programs that are specific to Indigenous culture and we have other programs in Indigenous language, which I will list on notice for you. One that comes to mind is the collaboration we do with SBS on <i>Little J & Big Cuz</i>. We have animation of Indigenous characters with Indigenous language. That is something that we've collaborated with SBS on. There are some things that we do. I'm happy to list that for you, Senator.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I have one last question because I know there are still a lot of people to go and we have to get to SBS. We still have questions for them later. Does the ABC news website provision of news in Chinese and Berita Bahasa Indonesia relate to the ABC's international broadcasting role or does the ABC direct those services to Australians?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: A bit of both.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Is that more about the international broadcasting?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have an Asia-Pacific newsroom, the bulk of which is in Melbourne. Yes, we have services that go out for our obligation under the charter with regard to international broadcasting, but we also make some of those services available domestically if it's relevant. So the answer is a bit of both. Again this is not at scale certainly domestically anyway. I can detail that for you on notice.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 103-104
128.	ABC	Abetz	News bulletins advising public of decision to forgo pay rise	<p>Senator ABETZ: How many ABC news bulletins advised the public of the refusal by ABC staff to forgo a two per cent wage increase?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't tell you—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You can take that on notice, but I think you'll find it a relatively small figure. It might be zero. That will be interesting.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 104

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
129.	ABC	Abetz	Follow up on QoNs and the Jon Stephens case	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can you look at question on notice 2021. A number of questions were asked about the ABC's involvement with Shanghai Media Group. Look at questions (7) and (11) in particular. I asked, 'Was the ABC aware that the Shanghai Media Group was associated with the Chinese Communist Party?' I got the answer, 'The ABC was aware at the time that the agreement was signed that SMG was a state owned media and cultural organisation.' That does not answer the question. Was the ABC aware that the SMG was associated with the Chinese Communist Party? Answer either yes or no.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I wasn't the managing director involved in it, but I would guess that, yes, the ABC would have known what it was doing at the time when it entered into that agreement.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: No. Was it aware that the SMG was associated with the Chinese Communist Party?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'd like to think so.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't answer that definitively because I wasn't part of the MOU.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Alright. Can you take on notice to find out from the people who were involved in that and also for question (11), where the involvement of the Chinese Communist Party was studiously avoided in the answer, although that is what was in fact asked for in the question? Are you able to update us on the current state of the child sex abuse case against former ABC employee Jon Stephens? Has the case been settled?</p>	21/10/2020 Page 104-105

130.	ABC	Abetz	Broad range of questions for ABC	<p>Senator ABETZ: Alright. What are the legal costs that have been incurred? You can take that on notice for us, thanks. I understand that the ABC recently lost a technical case against Racing NSW. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think that case is ongoing. I don't know—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: The case is ongoing, but there was a technical aspect of it, which I understand the ABC lost because the ABC sought to seal internal communications that could support a claim that it acted with malice by splicing footage of racehorses in an abattoir into an interview with the New South Wales racing chief. Does anybody have any advice on that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, other than the case—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If not, take it on notice, please. If that is correct, tell us how much of taxpayers' money was spent on this failed defence. Also on notice please provide detailed justification for running this defence. Also could you answer on notice: how does this dovetail with the ABC's support of the Your Right to Know campaign?</p> <p>I want to ask you about Mr Sandmann in the United States. Does that name ring a bell to you? It's the young fellow who was accused of racism and vilified by the US media.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right. Take that on notice because some of your programs mention that, when the footage was shown, the young man showed pure hate on his face, and other vilifying statements were made against him. It has now come to pass that the vision was in fact doctored and it was fake news. The young man has been getting literally millions of dollars of defamation payments from all the US media outlets that wanted to think the worst about this poor young man. So I'm asking you to take on notice what the ABC has done in relation to fact checking these things, correcting the record and apologising to this man. Have you made any contingency in your budget for defamation proceedings should he bring them here as well, as he has so successfully done in the United States?</p> <p>Talking of court cases, I turn to the coverage of Cardinal Pell. The corruption allegations, which suggest that cash transfers of over \$1 million from the Vatican to Australia were linked to the failed Pell prosecution, were covered by three Italian papers, <i>The Times</i> of London and Australian newspapers. On notice can you tell us what coverage this received on ABC news bulletins?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I can give you some information—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice for us. And did Ms Milligan, an ABC journalist, even tweet her displeasure that the issue was actually being discussed by other media outlets? Do we know the answer to that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, I don't watch—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Please take that on notice. If she did say, how does that then dovetail with ABC's standards? Is this the same Ms Milligan who wrote the book <i>Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell</i>. I assume there's a sequel coming out: 'The Rise and Fall and Resurrection of George Pell'. I make that as a rhetorical comment, but this is a journalist who wrote a book before the trial of Cardinal Pell, tweeting about now these corruption allegations which, of course, would sink the whole thesis of her book. It would appear unprofessional, but I will reserve judgement on that and await all the answers that you'll provide us with on notice. Also, on the Cardinal Pell case, there is the 7-0 decision of the</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 105-106</p>
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High Court—decisive, one judgement spoken with one voice, including the words, 'There is a significant possibility an innocent person has been convicted.' Yet we had ABC presenters tweeting, 'High Court has found not enough evidence to convict; it didn't find him innocent'. Don't we have the rule of law in this country where, if you're found not guilty, you are then entitled to a presumption called innocence?

Mr Anderson: Senator, I agree with you about the rule of law. I will note that, at the time the judgement came down, Joe O'Brien read that out in full on the news channel. I understand your question with regard to personal tweeting—

Senator ABETZ: I don't want all the coverage. Time is very short, so please provide all that on notice. I will move on to the ABC radio feature called *The Lone Soldier* which aired on 1 August. It was placed on the ABC's Facebook page and attracted some unfortunate commentary in relation to anti-Semitic comments. It was about people serving in the Israeli army. Can you provide on notice an explanation of the moderating process for the article and the Facebook posts? Why weren't some of these comments deleted more quickly? Some were retained there for days. Does this meet your expectation on content moderation? And then—not to be taken on notice—I ask: does the ABC currently use or have plans to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism to assist in content moderation? Mr Anderson, you may recall I asked you at the last estimates about that. You hadn't heard of it, and I invited you to consider it for your editorial policy. Where have we got with that?

Mr Anderson: Immediately after estimates, we did talk to it. I read about it. Where we've got to as to whether or not we've included that definition with regard to editorial policies or amended our editorial policies, I don't believe we have, but—

Senator ABETZ: I invite you to reconsider it and come back to us on notice as to why that has, or has not, been adopted. Whilst on Israel, we had these groundbreaking international Abraham Accords, which were broadcast live by many news outlets because of their newsworthiness. Did the ABC broadcast the signing live?

Mr Anderson: I will have to get back to you on notice, Senator.

Senator ABETZ: Alright—and if not, why not? Is it correct that the news bulletins on this led with outrage at the signing by extreme Muslim elements rather than a celebration of another step towards stability in the Middle East? Please take that on notice. Whilst we're on broadcasting—or not broadcasting—the Queen's historic COVID-19 speech was broadcast live on channels 7, 9, 10 and 11 and in every other Commonwealth country, yet our national broadcaster saw fit not to do so. Can you please tell us why, in Her Majesty's reign of 68 years, there have only been five such broadcasts on international-type crises? I would have thought it would be worthy of a live broadcast, but let us know on that. Can I then turn to *The Power of Falun Gong*—I think it was a *Four Corners* program—which received praise from Beijing. Of course, Falun Gong practitioners in China—prisoners of conscience—have their organs forcibly harvested. That has been shown by Geoffrey Nice QC's tribunal inquiry. Praise was forthcoming from Beijing before it even aired in Australia. Are you able to tell us how that occurred?

Mr Anderson: No, I'm not.

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
131.	ABC	Patrick	Funding and budget	<p>Senator PATRICK: ... First of all, in simple terms, noting the freeze in your funding and the budget this year, how much money would you have had to have in your budget to put you in the position you were in before the freeze?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The reversal of indexation would have had different amounts over the triennium, the last one being \$40 million a year, which is, in the end, the ongoing savings we needed to find. Those amounts, from memory, were something like \$15 million, \$28 million and \$41 million. They added up to—again, I'll take it on notice; I'm just going from memory—\$83.7 million over the time. But the last figure is the ongoing savings deficit that we needed to address.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 106-107</p>
132.	ABC	Patrick	ABC charter - genres	<p>Senator PATRICK: What genres are listed in your charter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The charter will speak to news and information, but it will also speak to the arts.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: News and information is only for overseas, isn't it? I think it's in the context of providing to transmit to countries outside of Australia broadcasting programs, news, current affairs, entertainment and cultural enrichment. The only one that's in the charter that—</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Is arts.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: relates to Australia is arts, so it's in that context that I'm going to ask you a few questions. My understanding is that the ABC commissioned a review of arts in 2016-17—are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I am. And we have more recently. We've just commissioned a review this year that was presented to the board last week.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I might come back to that. I presume that previous review was carried out by Simon Mordant—that's correct, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, Simon Mordant led that as a board representative, and there was an executive that was with—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: His report was endorsed by the board. They accepted the recommendations. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. I don't think there was full endorsement, from my memory, of all recommendations blanket, but the majority of it was endorsed by the board at the time.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: For those recommendations that were endorsed, was there an implementation plan put in place?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. Recommendations in there were taken on board. Some happen sooner than others. Then we evolved, if you like, as to what we were doing with some of that arts plan. I have to say that there was another managing director in charge at that time, so we had other changes that we imposed on ourselves which, in my estimation, would have impeded implementing all recommendations at that particular point in time. They were all for good</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 107-108</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>reason. They weren't without anything against the arts. It's just that we were looking to find savings for other investment. We lost our head of arts as well, Mandy Chang.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I was going to come to that. You don't have a head of arts now anymore, do you?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We had a Manager of Arts until a little while ago. Arts more broadly is the job of all of our content directors, whether it's entertainment and specialist—which has factual and culture that sits within it, which definitely has an arts unit—or whether it's arts that has the carriage of the content directors across local radio or whether it's arts reporting that sits with news.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: But one would imagine that, if it's a genre that has standing within the charter, you might—noting you'd have to coordinate this across the ABC—have a head of arts.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If you have one head of arts, the issue with that is that then it becomes just that person's job to do arts, when I actually think it is more broader than that across the ABC. The definitions of arts are quite broad. I go back to that 2016-17 review. Arts included literature, music in all forms, theatre and musical theatre, dance in all forms, other performing arts, film and television, animation, visual arts, museums, design, fashion, culture, community art et cetera. So that review had quite a broad theme to it. It included drama as in the arts, whereas what I read the charter as is more performing arts, in the way that it is written in that charter. We are looking at and have done an arts review which looks to what is at the moment arts that we do right across the ABC and what we might do for the future.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Coming to that review, is it public?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, it's not public. You will see elements of this in what will be our content launch for next year, which is coming in November.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: There are no military secrets in this review, I presume, that would prevent it being tabled to this committee?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's a board document, so it's a deliberative document for the board. The board requested a review into the arts. It's confidential, being a board document.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Just to be very clear, deliberative documents is not a public interest immunity. I'll refer to section 49 of the Constitution, which trumps almost every other provision in law—I'm asking you to provide that to the committee. You could, of course, think about that and offer a public interest immunity, but there are only limited public interest immunities you could offer. You are funded by the public. In fact, you have some guarantee of funding. I don't agree with the government's cuts, by any stretch of the imagination, but it's not like you're competing with News Corp for funding at least.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: What would be confidential in that are our plans for anything new that we might be doing next year, which I would like to keep confidential until we're ready to launch them.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator PATRICK: Can you look at the document in the context of what you think you need to preserve to maintain some advantage in terms of making sure people watch the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sure.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: It's just to give a feel for what the taxpayer has paid for here and where you might be heading more broadly. Could you look at the document and see what you could provide?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will. I will be consulting my chair as well. But it's a good collection of arts right across the ABC, from Radio National to what we do on television and the music networks that we've got—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: There are public interest immunities that you can advance. I'm not ruling those out.</p>	
133.	ABC	Patrick	Spending on the Arts	<p>Senator PATRICK: Sure. Mr Anderson, how much do you spend on arts content in total? I'm happy for you to take that on notice, if you like.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, some of that information is in that document.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: How much you're spending on it should not be held secret from—</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can tell you offhand. One figure I remember is that we spend \$16 million on our music networks, from Classic, on FM, to triple j—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Can you please provide to the committee on notice, over the last five years, the total of what you have spent on what you would consider to be the arts?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sure.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you. Hourly content produced by the ABC over the last five years would also be good.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 108
134.	ABC	McGrath	ABC Election Coverage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 16 September, the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters held a public hearing for the inquiry into the conduct of the 2019 Federal Election and matters related thereto. Mr Craig McMurtrie appeared at the hearing on behalf of the ABC. Questions on notice from the hearing on 16 September were due on 15 October. Can you please advise why the ABC hasn't complied with this deadline and when, if at all, the ABC will respond? 2. Does the ABC support the 'Right to Know' campaign? 3. If so, why hasn't the Blackburn report been published? 4. Who has seen the Blackburn report? 5. How much did the Blackburn report cost taxpayers? 	28/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
135.	ABC	McGrath	ABC Offices	<p>6. The coronavirus would have changed working arrangements at the ABC. Can you please provide a monthly breakdown of ABC staff working from home, including as a percentage of total staff, since 1 July 2019 at the ABC's:</p> <p>a) Sydney Ultimo office;</p> <p>b) Melbourne Southbank office; and</p> <p>c) Brisbane South Bank office.</p> <p>7. In March, Minister Fletcher called on the ABC to sell its expensive Southbank and Ultimo offices and move to purpose-built facilities elsewhere. Have you given any consideration to the Minister's request?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
136.	ABC	McGrath	Barbara Heggen	<p>On 18 November 2019, The Australian reported that ABC producer and presenter Barbara Heggen wrote to staff to seek interest in forming a 'ABC-staff climate crisis advisory group with the aim to gather together the brains trust of ABC staffers to develop ways to report on and inform Australians about the climate crisis using a 'solutions journalism' approach'. (Source: www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/abc-staff-propose-climate-group/news-story/50af6696dbff695d103f9fba77f1ed05.) Do you know what 'solutions journalism' is?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
137.	ABC	McGrath	Ita Buttrose	<p>On 21 November 2019, Chair Ita Buttrose told ABC Radio Adelaide that the climate crisis advisory group was not going to happen, and that the ABC leadership team and Managing Director have thought otherwise. Did you direct staff that this wasn't to happen?</p> <p>Freedom of Information request by the Institute of Public Affairs found that the group is as active as ever, holding regular meetings up until February. Is this appropriate?</p> <p>Do you find it concerning that staff are colluding to only cover one side of a very complex public policy issue?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
138.	ABC	McGrath	Laura Tingle Tweet	<p>On 9 October 2020, ABC political reporter Laura Tingle tweeted '...we grieve the loss of so many of our colleagues to ideological bastardry. Hope you are feeling smug @ScottMorrisonMP'. The tweet was subsequently deleted. Regardless, do you think it's appropriate for a political reporter, who is meant to be impartial, to tweet such vile language towards the Prime Minister?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
139.	ABC	McGrath	Wages	<p>ABC staff and presenters say 'we are all in this together'. Private sector wages have fallen by \$5.9 billion since May, most public sector agencies have taken a 6 month pay freeze as a gesture of shared sacrifice. Can the ABC honestly say 'we are all in this together' when 80 per cent of your staff voted for a 2 per cent pay rise, instead of deferring the 6 month pay freeze?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
140.	ABC	McGrath	Lincoln Rothall	<p>Recently ABC cameraman Lincoln Rothall wrote in a newsroom ‘all staff’ email that COVID-19 should win a Nobel prize ‘if it killed (George) Pell’. What is the status of Mr Rothall’s employment at the ABC?</p> <p>Given how abhorrent the comments are, has he been counselled in any way? Have you subsequently written to staff to condemn the comments? If not, why?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
141.	ABC	McGrath	The New Daily – commercial arrangement	What is the nature of the commercial arrangement between The New Daily and the ABC?	29/10/2020 Written
142.	ABC	McGrath	Industry Super Funds	<p>Supporters of the ABC pride its independence as something that is crucial to its independent journalism. Do you think the ABC receiving money from an outlet solely funded by Industry Super Funds compromises its journalism on that issue? (Source: www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/your-superannuation-supports-more-leftwing-lunacy/news-story/b5c15e8b231ad798d9282a6b4d3147d6.)</p>	29/10/2020 Written
143.	ABC	McGrath	The Drum	It has been over 900 days since staff at the Institute of Public Affairs have appeared on The Drum, despite many requests. The ABC have previously said there is no official boycott but the ABC is just having a laugh now aren’t they?	29/10/2020 Written
144.	ABC	McKenzie	RBAH	Have you engaged in discussions with the regional commercial broadcasters about making a contribution to the cost of maintaining Regional Broadcasters Australia Holdings (RBAH) retransmission sites?	29/10/2020 Written
145.	ABC	McKenzie	Receiving program transmission	Would you agree that viewers should expect to be able to receive the ABC, SBS and the commercial channels through their television that is connected to their antenna?	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
146.	ABC	McKenzie	ABC funding	<p>The ABC likes to position itself as a ‘local’ broadcaster doesn’t it?</p> <p>a. The ABC gets over \$1 billion per annum of public funding to provide Australians with an “innovative and comprehensive broadcasting service of a high standard” (according to section 6 of the <i>ABC Act</i> – known as the Charter). Is that correct?</p> <p>b. Shouldn’t the ABC prioritise making a contribution to the cost of the maintenance of retransmission sites that means regional Australians – who are part of the “Australian community” (referred to in the <i>ABC Act</i>) – can access their local terrestrial ABC service rather than paying for a set top box for the VAST satellite TV with content and news from a different licence area?</p> <p>c. Do you think that neglecting to pay for the maintenance of local retransmission sites meets the expectations of your local viewing audience in regional communities?</p> <p>d. Don’t you think this is a worthwhile investment?</p> <p>e. Isn’t supporting services in regional areas an investment that takes precedence over maintaining valuable premises in inner-city capital city locations?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
147.	ABC	McKenzie	RBAH retransmission	<p>The ABC likes to position itself as “Australia’s emergency broadcaster”, doesn’t it?</p> <p>a. Shouldn’t Australians in the RBAH retransmission footprint be able to access local ABC broadcasts, particularly during emergencies?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
148.	ABC	Rennick	Bill Bowtell	<p>1. In March 2020, Fran Kelly had Bill Bowtell on her program. He was held as an expert when he isn’t a doctor and doesn’t hold a medical degree. He’s a former diplomat and Keating Government staffer. He claimed that Australia would run out of ICU beds in early April creating unnecessary fear and hysteria. Why is the ABC allowing partisan political operatives to portray themselves as medical experts to stoke fear and hysteria?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
149.	ABC	Rennick	COVID-19 advice – Norman Swann	<p>2. In September 2020 Norman Swan, the ABC's "medical expert", said that NSW got lucky in its response to the Coronavirus. This was an insult to the hard-working health workers in NSW. Will you ask Norman Swan to apologise to the health workers of NSW? If not, why not?</p> <p>3. Why was Norman Swan and the ABC giving people advice on how to attend the Black Lives Matter rallies when it was against the advice of health authorities? Shouldn't the ABC be following health advice given it was creating fear and hysteria about not going into lockdown earlier regarding COVID-19?</p> <p>4. Why did the ABC continually allow Norman Swan to give advice contrary to the advice of the much more qualified health officials that only served to create doubt and confusion and undermine the efforts of the government to keep people safe?</p> <p>5. Mr Swan is an executive director of a company, Tonic Health Media, that was bidding to win the contract for a government funded media campaign. Did Mr Swan seek permission to bid for this contract given the potential conflict of interest that may have arisen if the bid was successful?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
150.	ABC	Rennick	Cost Recovery	<p>6. Given several other agencies operate on a cost recovery basis, why doesn't the ABC advertise across its platforms, apart from local radio, in order to pay for some of its costs?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
151.	ABC	Rennick	7.45 News Bulletin	<p>7. Why did the ABC threaten to stop the 7:45 news bulletin which has been a mainstay news bulletin of ABC news and current affairs for years given there are many other areas of programming that would not be considered as significant as that particular bulletin?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
152.	ABC	Rennick	Salaries	<p>8. Given the ABC has a budget of a \$1 billion, isn't it a bit top heavy with salaries with 110 people on more than \$225,000?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
153.	ABC	Rennick	Reporting of Swine Flu and COVID-19	<p>9. In a 2009 Media Watch host Paul Barry described an article written by Joe Hildebrand regarding Swine Flu, which suggested that it could cause over 10,000 deaths, as “alarmist.” Mr Hildebrand relied on advice from Rana McIntyre, an infectious disease expert. There were over 38,000 cases and 191 deaths from Swine Flu. Why did Mr Barry consider projections about Swine Flu as alarmist but projections about COVID-19, many of which were grossly exaggerated, as not being alarmist?</p> <p>10. Given the fact that many ABC commentators criticised the Federal Government for not shutting the country down when the Coronavirus outbreak began, why didn't the ABC criticise Nicola Roxon and Kevin Rudd for not shutting down the country given the number of cases and deaths from Swine Flu?</p> <p>11. Why didn't the ABC keep a running tally of cases and deaths from Swine Flu as it has with COVID- 19? Is the point of the running tally to create a culture of fear and panic designed to undermine the economy and the current Federal Government?</p> <p>12. Why isn't the ABC keeping a running tally of suicides, overall deaths, average age of Covid deaths compared to life expectancy, the number of people dying from Covid who had co-morbidities, the drop in check-ups and closed businesses in order to provide the true impacts of Covid on the Australian people?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
154.	ABC	Rennick	Article –Great Barrier Reef	<p>13. The ABC recently ran an article saying that coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef has dropped by half since 1995. Data from the Australian Institute of Marine Science shows that coral cover has dropped slightly since 1995 and is recovering from the devastating floods and cyclones from a decade ago. Why did the ABC post this article without fact checking it?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
155.	ABC	Rennick	QandA reporting	<p>14. On a QandA program in June a guest claimed that 400 aboriginals were murdered in custody. The Australian Institute of Criminology reported there were 14 Unlawful homicides. Why didn't the host Hamish McDonald correct the record then and will the ABC correct the record now?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
156.	ABC	Rennick	Children’s Channels	<p>15. What is the production cost for each children’s channel?</p> <p>16. Why does the ABC need two children’s channels?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
157.	ABC	Rennick	ABC News 24	<p>17. What is the production cost for ABC News 24?</p> <p>18. Given the proliferation of news channels across various media platforms, why does the ABC need to provide a 24-hour news service in addition to its news bulletins on radio, online and existing ABC channels?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
158.	ABC	Rennick	The Drum - production	<p>19. What is the production cost for The Drum?</p> <p>20. How many people does it take to produce The Drum?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
159.	ABC	Rennick	Media Watch	<p>21. What is the production cost of Media Watch?</p> <p>22. How many people does it take to produce Media Watch?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
160.	ABC	Rennick	Kerry O'Brien	23. Has Kerry O'Brien been paid for contract work to the ABC in the last five years? 24. If so, how much?	29/10/2020 Written
161.	ABC	Rennick	Bushfires	25. Why was the ABC running commentary calling on the Federal Government to do more regarding the 2019/2020 bushfires when state governments are responsible for emergency services?	29/10/2020 Written
162.	ABC	Antic	Surveys	<p>1. With respect to the ABC Corporate Tracking Program referred to at page 48 of the ABC Annual Report 2020/1 please provide a copy of the questions asked of participants in each ABC Corporate Tracking Program survey conducted in the calendar years 2016 – 2020 inclusive (the 2016-2020 Surveys).</p> <p>2. With respect to each of the 2016-2020 Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How, when and where were the participants invited or selected to participate in the survey? b. Were the surveys publicly advertised or promoted, and if so where and how was each survey publicly advertised or promoted? c. Were the surveys targeted at any identifiable target audience, including without limitation, geographic region, specific age group, religious identity, minority group, political leaning or affiliation? d. Does the ABC rely on any third party or third party data to advertise or promote the surveys, whether to a particular target audience or otherwise; e. If ABC relied on third parties, or third party data in order to target, advertise or promote any survey, what instructions were provided to those third parties? Please provide a copy of those instructions. f. Was data kept with respect to the number of people who were provided a chance to complete the survey but refused or failed to complete the survey? g. If so, how many participants refused or failed to complete the survey? 	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
163.	ABC	Antic	Complaints	<p>3. With respect to the table entitled “Nature of editorial complaint issues 2019- 2020” and the categories of complaints contained therein (the Complaint Categories) on page 101 of the ABC Annual Report 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How are complaints categorised into the Complaint Categories? b. What are the criteria which must be met for a complaint to be categorised into each of the Complaint Categories, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Factual inaccuracy; ii. Bias (other than political bias); iii. Inappropriate content; iv. Party political bias; v. Lack of balance; vi. Unfair treatment; and vii. Other. c. What is the criteria, method or process used to determine whether a complaint is legitimate and requires further investigation or response? d. What steps is ABC taking to address the complaints which are received with respect to each of the Complaint Categories? e. Did any complaint received by the ABC for the relevant period meet the criteria for more than one of the Complaint Categories? f. If the answer to Question 3(d) is yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. how was such a complaint categorised? ii. Was such a complaint categorised under only one category, or was a complaint registered for both (or additional) categories with respect to the same complaint? <p>4. Has there been any change to the methods or processes used to categorise complaints between each of the ABC annual reports tabled for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,2020?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. If the answer to (e) is yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What changes were implemented to the complaints classification process or methods between each of those years; ii. Why were those changes implemented? 	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
164.	ABC	Antic	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement – Gender Transition Leave	<p>5. With respect to clause 41.1.7 (the Gender Transition Leave Clause) of the ABC Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2019-2022 (the EBA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who first proposed the inclusion of the Gender Transition Leave Clause in the EBA, was it first proposed for inclusion by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. ABC Management? iv. ABC staff? v. Staff unions? vi. Other? b. If other, please advise by whom it was first proposed. c. Did ABC employees vote on the inclusion of the Gender Transition Leave Clause in the EBA at any stage of the EBA negotiations? d. If the answer to Question 5(c) is yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the result of the vote, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What percentage of ABC employees who participated in the vote, voted for its inclusion? ii. What percentage of ABC employees who participated in the vote, voted against its inclusion? e. Did ABC employees vote to accept the entirety of the EBA? f. If the answer to Question 5(e) is yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the result of the vote, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What percentage of ABC employees who participated in the vote, voted in favour of the EBA? ii. What percentage of ABC employees who participated in the vote, voted against the EBA? g. The Gender Transition Leave Clause refers to “gender identity” and “birth sex” but does not provide definitions for those terms, and accordingly I ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How does the ABC define “gender identity” for the purpose of assessing ABC staff entitlement under the Gender Transition Leave Clause? b. How does the ABC define “birth sex” for the purpose of assessing ABC staff entitlement under the Gender Transition Leave Clause? <p>6. How many ABC staff have taken or requested leave under the Gender Transition Leave Clause?</p> <p>7. What has been the cost to date of providing Gender Transition Leave to ABC staff?</p> <p>8. Do ABC staff require any medical documentation or medical evidence when applying for Gender Transition Leave?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
165.	ABC	Antic	Diversity and Inclusion Plan	<p>9. With respect to the ABC’s “workforce diversity targets” referred to at page 14 of the ABC Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2019-2023:</p> <p>h. On what basis were those targets calculated?</p> <p>i. How does the ABC intend to capture “diversity data on sexual orientation and gender identity”?</p> <p>10. How many ABC employees identify as Christian?</p> <p>11. How many ABC employees identify as politically conservative?</p> <p>12. If the ABC does not capture data with respect to the matters referred to at Question 10 and 11 above or does not measure those metrics amongst its employees, and therefore does not know the answer to those questions:</p> <p>a. Why does the ABC not capture that data or measure those metrics?</p> <p>b. How can the ABC be satisfied that its employee diversity accurately reflects the make-up of Christian and conservatives in the wider Australian community?</p> <p>13. What proportion of ABC content is intended to cater to Christians?</p> <p>14. What proportion of ABC content is intended to cater to those who identify as politically conservative?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
166.	ABC	Roberts	ABC bushfire coverage	Referring to FOI 201920-059 from the ABC, what were the full particulars and nature of the ‘ABC Bushfire Coverage’ project conducted by Ruby Cha Cha for \$47,234?	04/11/2020 Written
167.	ABC	Roberts	Emergency Communication	Referring to FOI 201920-059 from the ABC, what were the full particulars and nature of the project referenced as ‘Emergency Communication’ from Dynata Global Au Pty Ltd for \$11,263.56?	04/11/2020 Written
168.	ABC	Roberts	Ruby Cha Cha and Dynata Global	What is the total amount paid to Ruby Cha Cha and Dynata Global Au in the previous 18 months?	04/11/2020 Written
169.	ABC	Roberts	Research firm payments	What is the total amount the ABC has paid to research firms over the past 18 months?	04/11/2020 Written
170.	ABC	Roberts	Research firm projects	Please list and itemise the projects and descriptions thereof that make up the total amount the ABC has paid to research firms over the past 18 months.	04/11/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
171.	ABC	Bragg	ABC – staff movements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many permanent staff have left the ABC in the 12 months to 30 June 2020? 2. How many permanent ABC staff have left in past five years to 30 June 2020? 3. Of the employees who have left the ABC in the past five years, how many of these were formal resignations versus redundancies? 4. Please provide a breakdown of all redundancies and all resignations in each of the five years to 30 June 2020. 5. Over that same five year period how many permanent staff have been hired? 6. In the 2018-19 annual report the total headcount for the 2017-18 year was 4108, but in the 2017-18 annual report ABC reported headcount as 4939. Please explain this discrepancy 7. In the annual reports from 2018-2019 onwards, you've separated ongoing employees from non-ongoing employees. Please explain why? 8. Does head count numbers in the annual report include casuals and contractors? Additionally are they what you define as non-ongoing employees in the annual report? 9. Due to the absence of this information in annual reports over the past five years, can you tell me how the proportion of casuals and contractors to permanent staff has changed over the past five years? 10. Please confirm the total number of employees working in News, Analysis and Investigations in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. 11. Please provide details of the total number of employees in News, Analysis and Investigations in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 and a breakdown of their location by state and include a further breakdown by regional areas. 	<p>11/11/2020 Written</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
172.	SBS	Green	Funding for ACTF	<p>Senator GREEN: Mr Taylor, the government announced \$20 million over two years for the ACTF, the Australian Children's Television Foundation, for children's television. Does SBS have an idea yet of whether it will be able to access those funds to produce children's programs?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I can't provide you with clarity. I'm happy to take it on notice. I think Mr Anderson covered a similar line of questioning. It's great that funding has been provided to the ACTF for the provision of more children's content. We would obviously, in the ordinary course of events in our efforts to access money from funding bodies, need to match funding. It would be a diversion of funding from other activities if we were to seek to access that money. But, of course, I don't have a detailed understanding of the rules that will sit around that initial \$20 million, so I'm happy to take it on notice and provide a more fulsome response once that's clear.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Thank you. I think you picked up on something I'm curious about. You said you have to put money in to get money out. How much does the SBS need to put in to get money out of the ACTF from this fund, and does SBS have enough funding to access this?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: As I said, I don't have the answer to your specific question. The way accessing funding generally works through funding bodies is that there are stipulated minimum contributions from broadcasters defined by genre and by different state agencies from time to time. I'm not clear on the mechanisms that will surround this funding. But it would require additional funding for us to be providing children's content—over and above our additional expenditure to access this funding, as I understand it.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Thank you. Would you also take on notice what that might be in dollar terms as well so we can have an understanding of what that might be and how that might work?</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 112</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
173.	SBS	Green	Article by Zoe Samios – real estate	<p>Senator GREEN: On 5 October 2020, an article by Zoe Samios in <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> reported on an exchange between the ABC and SBS about real estate and cooperation between the public broadcasters. Could you just clarify, for the purposes of this committee, the nature and status of these issues.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Yes, absolutely. As I recall, the article by Ms Samios spoke to a correspondence between SBS and the ABC which she had secured under freedom of information legislation from the ABC. There was an exchange of views on efficiency opportunities that could be explored between the two organisations. I think your question related to the nature of collaborations between the organisations, if I heard you correctly. I would say that SBS and the ABC have a very active dialogue around collaboration opportunities. Mr Anderson mentioned that we speak regularly; I would say that's absolutely true. In fact, there is a working group established between the two organisations, led at our end by Ms Niarchos, our CFO, who's here with me this evening, and at the ABC end by her ABC counterpart. It also has heavy involvement from the respective CTOs of the organisations. Over the last year, we have explored and delivered a great many efficiency opportunities through collaboration. I can provide a bit of substance on that if that would be of assistance, either here or on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: On notice is fine. I think one of the particular issues raised in that article was about real estate. Is that something that you can elaborate on?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Yes, certainly. The correspondence related to co-location opportunities. I think it's worth noting that we do share office space with the ABC in a number of locations around the country. We have previously explored the notion of moving our Melbourne premises, which is in Federation Square, into the ABC offices in Melbourne. We did not pursue that opportunity because it was significantly financially detrimental versus our current cost of tenancy in Federation Square, noting that we last year halved the floor space we occupied from two floors to one floor and therefore halved our future rental obligations, and we have a very asset-light operating model on that site. But, whenever these opportunities are identified, we explore them with an eye to delivering the best operational outcome for the organisation and the best financial outcome.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 114
174.	SBS	Green	Minister contact with SBS	<p>Senator GREEN: Can you take this on notice if you don't have it at hand; I'm hoping it's a pretty extensive list. How many times has the minister contacted SBS? When was that contact? What was it for? That's just over the past 12 months, the past year.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Thank you.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 114

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
175.	SBS	Green	Reporting on bombing in Azerbaijan and process for dealing with corrections and apologies	<p>Senator GREEN: ... I just have a couple more questions. This is something I asked the ABC about; I'm not sure if you were following all of that section of the hearing tonight. It's in regard to some recent coverage of the bombing in Azerbaijan. Are you aware of that reporting?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I am.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay. This is one of those situations where an issue's been raised with us but we wanted to see whether it's been raised with SBS directly. There was some reporting about that particular bombing and perhaps an attribution of who was responsible for that event. Have you received any complaints about that reporting?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I might ask Ms O'Neil to respond.</p> <p>Ms O'Neil: No, not to my knowledge. As required with all of our news and current affairs, we seek to cover these matters in a balanced and impartial way, and to do that we use a range of sources in our news and current affairs reporting. We have yet to receive any formal complaint on that matter.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay. Can you just take on notice for us, then, what the SBS process is with dealing for corrections and apologies. I'm sure that it's publicly available, but it would be good for the committee to have it on notice. Given that there has been no complaint, we wouldn't anticipate that any of those steps have been followed yet, but what steps would be followed if there is a complaint of that nature?</p>	21/10/2020 Page 114
176.	SBS	McMahon	Audience growth	<p>Senator McMAHON: How has SBS's audience grown over the last five years?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: It's grown substantially. Let me give you a couple of examples. If you were to look at our free-to-air network metro share, that has grown by over 20 per cent over the last five years. If you would look at our digital consumption hours—all the hours of content consumed on digital platforms—that's grown by some 230-percent in the last few years. I mentioned in my opening statement that we now have 8.7 million registered users on SBS On Demand and that is growing at a rate of proximately 200,000 per month. I think that's a real testament to the quality, depth, breadth and uniqueness of the SBS On Demand offering.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: How does that compare to the free-to-air's?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I would have to take that on notice. Although I believe we are the only free-to-air provider to be growing our share over that period of time. That's a matter of some pleasure to us, given the importance we place on the nature of our content. I think our digital growth also exceeds industry benchmarks. I would have to provide you with a validated answer on those.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 116-117

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
177.	SBS	McMahon	Indigenous languages broadcast	<p>Senator McMAHON: Could you tell me how many Indigenous languages you broadcast in and what geographical areas they are from?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will take that on notice. It varies from program to program. I and Australians notice our coproduction with the ABC, <i>Little J and Big Cuz</i> is available in English and in multiple Indigenous languages.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: Given the Northern Territory alone has over 200 Indigenous languages, how do you make that decision of which particular languages to pick?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: It's definitely a challenge, and we take the advice of the NITV team, but I'll come back to you with a full response about the selection criteria that are applied to answer your question.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 117
178.	SBS	Hanson-Young	Managing Director bonuses	<p>1. Is the Managing Director of SBS financially rewarded by way of bonuses when meeting advertising revenue targets?</p> <p>2. Are those bonuses additional to, or part of, the Managing Director's salary as set by the Remuneration Tribunal?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
179.	SBS	Hanson-Young	Complaints in last 12 months	<p>3. How many complaints has SBS received in the past 12 months about the number, duration or placement of advertising on SBS platforms, both television and on-demand services?</p> <p>4. How many complaints has SBS received in the past 12 months about gambling advertising on its platforms?</p> <p>5. Do the Managing Director and other senior leaders within SBS regularly read complaints from viewers?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
180.	SBS	Hanson-Young	Measuring advertising	<p>6. Does SBS measure advertising from the top of the clock hour to limit itself to not exceed 5 minute advertising "in any hour of broadcasting"?</p> <p>7. Will SBS update its system of measuring advertising to check at every second in every hour, that "in any hour of broadcasting" – no matter where the hour commences – SBS does not exceed 5 minutes of advertising?</p>	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
181.	eSafety & DITRDC	Urquhart	Harm of suicide videos & Report of the expert working group	<p>Senator URQUHART: I'm not sure whether you can give me this information now, but you can take it on notice. In relation to the advice you provided to government around the harm of suicide videos and dating apps, are you able to provide me with when those briefings or advice was given?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: There were two separate episodes, that I can recall. I will take that on notice. One was in 2019 and one was recently, this year. There was both verbal and written communication to the minister's office.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could follow-up and confirm that, that would be great. Mr Atkinson, can you tell me why the government won't release the report of the expert working group?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: My understanding was that the report of the expert working group fed into the cabinet policy considerations of the reforms.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But why is there no transparency or bipartisanship, in the name of keeping Australians safe? Surely there's information there that would be very useful to a lot of people, around working towards keeping Australians safe.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I can take on notice whether or not it can be released, but that was why.</p>	21/10/2020 Page 125

182.	eSafety	Patrick	Cyberbullying and anonymity	<p>Senator PATRICK: I understand, but if you're capturing 20 per cent, then that's potentially worth it if it deters people from conducting cyber bullying, or maybe even moderates people online if they know that their identity is validated. You've clearly looked at this at least, but have you looked at what the banks have done? Even if you just took on the major platforms with this sort of requirement—already Facebook has a verification on certain users. I've got a tick against my name—</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: They have a real names policy and they supposedly use 85 points of identification. How many people do you know are using pseudonyms on Facebook? I can think of about five off the top of my head. It isn't effective the way the systems are set up now. I also suspect there would be huge privacy and civil libertarian pushback—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's not the case with banks.</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: in enlisting organisations. I think that there are incremental steps we can make. Getting rid of anonymity or even pseudonyms on the internet is going to be a very hard thing to achieve; the genie is out of the bottle.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I like the idea that you would tell me why it ought to be done, rather than why it shouldn't be done.</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Why it should be done? The problem that we're seeing with all forms of online abuse right now is that people believe they can do it with relative impunity. There are a number of reasons for that. One is because just taking down someone's account, when they can create new ones fairly easily, is not a deterrent. I don't think we're going to see global law enforcement around the world arresting at a rate where it's going to deter things. I want to be pragmatic here about what's in the realm of the possible. It would be great if everybody had a name tag online so they couldn't do things with impunity, but from a technical policy, and even a political level, I just don't know how, in the next two or three years, that would be achievable. We need to take baby steps.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I like to take bold steps, actually. I'm wondering, have you, as the commissioner, or your staff, looked at that kind of technology? Do you have any papers on it or any analysis on that particular approach?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: We have. We've talked to the DTA about some of their identity work. We've talked to the platforms about it. I was just looking at Emily van der Nagel's PhD on pseudonymity on the internet. I guess all I want to say is: if anonymity or erasing anonymity is your goal, we also have to ask, 'to what end'? I don't think it will end all online abuse on the internet, but it might go some way.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sure. My philosophy is eat the elephant one bite at a time. Could you provide to the committee, in particular the work that the commission has done in this area, including the nature of the conversations you've had with the DTA and with the social media providers. I'm happy if there are some references to some public domain papers. On notice, can you please provide that to the committee?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: I certainly can. It is something that we've been thinking hard about. Thank you.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you.</p>	<p>21/10/2020 Page 128-129</p>
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Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
183.	eSafety	Griff	Advertising spending	<p>For the 2018-19 financial year expenditure on advertising was \$175,760 in total for the ACMA and e-Safety, the majority of which was expended by the ACMA.</p> <p>In 2019-20 \$51,844 was expended on general advertising by e-Safety on advertising solely with Facebook.</p> <p>a) Why is the advertising spend so low given the extraordinary increases online grooming attempts during the pandemic as reported by Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation should more advertising should have been conducted and on a variety of social media platforms?</p> <p>b) Do you share the concern that the message of online safety for children is not getting through because too often children are unaware of the dangers posed by accessing social media platforms and how do you assess the effectiveness of your advertising and education campaigns?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
184.	eSafety	Griff	Model National Response	eSafety in its international work promotes a Model National Response for tackling online child sexual exploitation, and researchers in the field continually call for prevention programs to be independently evaluated. Has eSafety had any of their prevention strategies evaluated for effectiveness? And if so, is this information publicly available?	29/10/2020 Written
185.	eSafety	Griff	Increased online presence	Given children's increased online presence during the pandemic and ACCCE has seen the highest month on month increases in reports between March and April 2020 since January 2019 what campaigns have been run by e-Safety to promote online safety and warn of the dangers online predatory behaviour during the pandemic?	29/10/2020 Written
186.	eSafety	Griff	Market Research	In 2019-20 e-Safety spent \$555,610 on market research organisations. Has any of that research been released publicly and what did the research conducted by the University of NSW into child exploitation during COVID-19 find?	29/10/2020 Written
187.	eSafety	Griff	National Schools Chaplaincy Program	<p>In 2019, e-Safety began delivering training to chaplains as part of the National Schools Chaplaincy Program.</p> <p>What sort of training was provided and are school chaplains best placed to be providing guidance to school children on the issues of cyberbullying, sexting, online grooming and online predatory behaviour?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
188.	eSafety	Griff	School resources	eSafety has some excellent resources for schools to manage negative online experiences within school grounds, including an entire toolkit. Does eSafety have any information about how many schools are using these resources?	29/10/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
189.	OeSC	Patrick	The contribution of anonymity to Cyber Bullying / Cyber Stalking / Online Exploitation	<p>In the context of Cyber Bullying, Cyber Stalking, online exploitation, the parties for simplicity can be identified as; the Victim; the Perpetrator and the Facilitator/s (the entity/entities whose tools are used by the perpetrator).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is anonymity of the Perpetrator a contributing factor to Cyber Bullying / Cyber Stalking / Online Exploitation? 2. Has the Office of the eSafety Commissioner investigated any mechanisms to address the anonymity? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Did the investigations include industry engagement? b. What feedback/response did the Office of the eSafety Commissioner receive from industry? 3. Has the Office of the eSafety Commissioner considered a solution which would follow the path of a 'Know Your Customer' model/concept that could address the aspect of anonymity? 	30/10/2020 Written

190.	Australia Post	Carr	Outputs of modelling	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Mr Barnes, you were assisting us in terms of the modelling. I asked about the outputs of the modelling.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: The alternative delivery model was one part of the temporary regulatory relief. Our aim in the model was to ensure that we could divert our letter postie resource into delivering more parcels. To do that we needed to adhere to a number of the changes in that we were not impacting regional rounds, we were not impacting PO boxes, post office mail, and so they still received a daily service at PO boxes and so forth.</p> <p>There were 8,200 rounds across the country that were potentially impacted. Through the modelling and through the split between regional and metro, there were just over 6,000 rounds that needed to be reassessed with a few to this modelling. Pre-COVID, we were faced with a situation where our average postie round, which would traditionally have about 1,800 to 1,200 delivery points, was getting less than 500 letters in total per day for those points. That continued to diminish. In fact, in 2014 the number of letters that we sequenced through the machines to go to posties for those rounds was up close to 1,500 letters. That is just evidence of the decline in volume.</p> <p>As we modelled the rounds, of course, we had a number of objectives. We wanted to improve safety for our posties. We wanted to ensure that we could cover those rounds and we also needed to make sure that as we paired those rounds together to achieve the alternate-day service we took into account terrain, topography and mode of travel, and also postie safety and capacity to do that work. It was quite a complex process. We have a software tool and a national delivery modelling tool that we use, and it calculates things with topography, terrain, distances, mode of travel, and the volume of letters on rounds. Each round is different. Some posties have quite busy rounds and others are a little different. That changes every month. We monitor that weekly and we also monitor that monthly.</p> <p>We built the model effectively to create what we call pairs of four rounds so that effectively we would have two posties who would do a round apiece. Most homes now are only receiving letters two to three times a week. We had two posties covering that. The model than planned for a third postie to take the volume of parcels that was already in the existing suite of parcels that we were streaming into our postie network. We were streaming these parcels, and we have been doing so since 2016, because as letters declined we were trying to find extra work for the posties to come through and counter and deal with the surging volume demand. That has been fairly successful, but it has got to the point where those parcels exceeded the capacity for our posties. In other words, on the motorcycle there was just no more capacity to do anymore. The demand kept growing, and we had seen that evidence from last peak.</p> <p>The fourth postie that we could free up through the modelling was used to cope with the additional parcels we could stream into the postie centre. There could be parcels coming in through our other fleet, through the red van fleet or the contractor fleet, and we could work those through. I can go into more detail, if it helps. If you want me to be more specific, I can get you some of the results. I am keen to make sure I answer your question.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: That's very good. Thank you. I presume you shared this modelling with the board?</p>	<p>22/10/2020</p> <p>Page 11-12</p>
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				<p>Mr Barnes: I shared the modelling with the board in what I will call quite summary terms. I did not go into the exact details around topography. You can appreciate the very complex nature of each round.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So, a summary was presented to the board. What day was that? Are you able to tell me when that was presented?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I'm sorry. I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall the exact date.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: That is fair enough.</p>	
191.	Australia Post	Carr	Prices for contractor parcel delivery	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Is it true that contractors are paying double the ordinary price/rate to get the parcels delivered? Is there any truth to that?</p> <p>Ms Davies: No.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: No?</p> <p>Ms Davies: Not to our knowledge.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Would you like to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Davies: Yes, we'll take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 15
192.	Australia Post	Carr	Attrition numbers	<p>Senator KIM CARR: I understand he has had constructive meetings with those various groups. That is what led me to ask the question whether or not it is an issue or whether or not there is going to be the possibility of bringing the regulations to an end more quickly, given there are some concerns being expressed, as I understand it. I understand that view might well have been directly to the minister. Is it the case that we have posties that are resigning from their jobs at ADM sites since the model has been introduced? Do we have any numbers in terms of staff turnover?</p> <p>Ms Davies: I am very happy to provide some detailed attrition numbers. What we have seen through COVID-19 is the attendance has increased significantly across the whole business, in particular in our frontline employees. The number of posties retiring during that period has actually reduced significantly. We obviously have an ageing workforce.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So retirements are down?</p> <p>Ms Davies: Retirements are down and attrition is certainly not increasing.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Can you provide us with any statistical advice on that?</p> <p>Ms Davies: I can take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 15
193.	Australia Post	Carr	Board consideration of unaddressed mail	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Yes, I understand that, and I'm going to come to that in some detail. I just want to be clear about this. Has the future of unaddressed mail post January 2021 been addressed by an Australia Post board meeting?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: We have said that we see this as an important service and we will continue it.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Has this matter been discussed at a recent board meeting?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Not my recollection, but may I take that on notice?</p>	22/10/2020 Page 17

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194.	Australia Post	Carr	Future of the UMS service	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Has it been the case that the Print and Visual Communications Association or any other industry peak body has raised with you concerns about the future of the UMS service and what they have described to me as a \$350 million industry with thousands of jobs depending on it?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Not to myself. On occasion I do actually meet with the print industry. Mr Starr and I have met with many of the different leaders.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: You've not been approached by any of the unions about this matter?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Not to my knowledge. I would have to take it on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 17-18
195.	Australia Post	Carr	Priority service – Queensland election	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. What's the cost structure? What's the difference in the cost structure?</p> <p>Mr Starr: Priority mail is a 50 cent charge on top of the regular basic postage rate.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: On top of the standard letter delivery charge?</p> <p>Mr Starr: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. In the Queensland election I take it you are using priority paid facilities there.</p> <p>Mr Starr: In Victoria it's purely a postal vote. In Queensland one can vote in person. There will be some postal votes. I have to clarify that, Senator, but I do believe they would be using a priority service, our focus of that being on the planning, which we started many months ago, but I can take that on notice and confirm.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 19-20
196.	Australia Post	Carr	Senator Hanson's stubby holders	<p>Senator KIM CARR: There was an issue of 114 stubby holders, with Senator Pauline Hanson's face, being delivered in Melbourne. Are you aware of this issue?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I am aware of the issue.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: When were you made aware of the issue?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: One of our employees wrote to me on the Friday evening. I did not see that email until the Saturday morning.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Saturday—was this 11 July?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So Mr Macdonald sent you an email—is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: No, it was not. It was a colleague in the organisation further down. I also received a call from Mr Starr and a call from Mr Barnes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I see. At what point did you contact the Melbourne City Council?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I personally didn't write to them. It was Mr Macdonald who did. What I did do was, because I started to receive different messages—I was informed, Senator, that the mayor, Ms Sally Capp, would be calling me. Because I had different people calling me I asked us all could we join a call and really find out what was happening.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I see. I can provide the emails here if necessary. Presumably it may be better to get the official emails rather than rely on my versions of them, which may not be accurate. So if you could provide a copy of the emails on notice, Ms Holgate. At any point</p>	22/10/2020 Page 20-21

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				<p>did you find it necessary to speak to Senator Hanson or members of her office about the delivery?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I didn't, Senator. I did wonder whether somebody should, because I was told that Ms Sally Capp, who is somebody I know personally very well, would be calling me. Sally actually didn't call me and actually as the day progressed I think we found a resolution with Melbourne City Council. There was no need to do anything about it further than that.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So you didn't contact the Australian Federal Police or Victoria Police about the issue?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Not me personally, Senator. But, if we could allow Mr Rod Barnes to talk, he would be able to give you a much better indication.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Mr Barnes, are you able to assist me? Who contacted the police about the delivery of the stubby holders?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Thank you, Senator. I became aware of the issue just after 6 pm on Friday where, as Christine points out, I was copied on an email to her inferring that the mayor of the council was about to contact her. That night, on Friday, I made enquiries through our head of security, Mr Zuccato, and his team, because we had had verbal advice that the council had informed us that they in fact had referred the matter to the Federal Police. At this point we didn't have any facts or details of what had occurred and we were busily trying to gather those. I believe that our security team, particularly our head of security, who is actually ex a high member of the Federal Police, made a request of the Federal Police to confirm the nature of the enquiry and what the concerns were. That was not forthcoming, so I'd need to take on notice as to who was speaking with the police, but we did later receive confirmation on the Saturday afternoon that they had received an enquiry, Senator.</p>	
197.	Australia Post	Kitching	Bank@Post service	<p>Senator KITCHING: Is it possible to get a breakdown of the increased number in the transactions?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Yes, we can provide that.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Senator, if we may take it on notice we can give you the overall volumes. It's just that we can't release confidential information from a bank.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No, just overall volumes is good. You've touched on Victoria or perhaps Melbourne having different circumstances. But what usage trends are you seeing for the service and how did those trends—they held up over the COVID-19. So you've had an increase. If I can get some detail just on notice just about whether that's trended, how has that happened in Victoria. Is it possible I can get a breakdown by postcode?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: We can definitely provide it per state and we can provide it per postcode. We probably couldn't provide it per outlet because of that information being confidential to that outlet, but I can say confidently that we have seen—even though there's been a reduction in cash over this time, largely because of COVID concerns about cash, we have seen transaction volumes being volatile—absolutely volatile—but they have remained consistent.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 23

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198.	Australia Post	Kitching	Post office consumer charges	<p>Senator KITCHING: When someone pays a bill, for example, a utility bill, is Auspost still charging a few dollars per bill paid?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Not to the customer. So—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You bill the utility?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Yes, so it depends on the client, if you like, not the consumer.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: We could provide to the committee, if you would like, a sort of overview of what consumer charges are within the post office.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I would really like that, because I went to a meeting with older Australians in regional Victoria and some of them [inaudible] \$30 [inaudible] in order to pay at Australia Post [inaudible] utility bills they are paying.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 24
199.	Australia Post	Kitching	Bank@post deal	<p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask which executives worked on the Bank@Post deal?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Mr Gary Starr, myself, a lady called Deanne Keetelaar and Nicole.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sorry—Deanne Keetelaar?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: She's our general manager financial services.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Is that all?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: They were the senior managers. We could provide you a list. It was a big team. We could provide you a list.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, I would like a list.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 24
200.	Australia Post	Kitching	Purchase of Cartier watches	<p>Senator KITCHING: And was that purchased on the corporate credit card of—in the name of the office of the CEO?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I don't recall, Senator. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So in October 2018 you purchased four Cartier watches and you're going to come back to me about which credit card—or did you do a direct transfer to Cartier? Was that in Cartier in Sydney? Were the watches purchased out of Cartier in Sydney?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: No, they were not.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Where were they purchased out of?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Melbourne.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That is quite close to your headquarters office in Melbourne. Was fringe benefits tax declared on these watches?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Senator, I'd have to take it on notice. I wouldn't know. I'm assuming so because our finance team are very vigilant about going through fringe benefits tax, but I can happily take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 25-26
201.	Australia Post	Kitching	Prescribed letter standard	<p>Senator KITCHING: Did Australia Post miss its prescribed letter standard in July? I'm looking—it's in the regs. I'm looking at the regs under the delivery times for reserved</p>	22/10/2020 Page 27

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>services letter and obviously we have moved from—in the capital city of a state if the delivery address is within that capital city it was one business day of posting. It's now moved to five business days after the day of posting. Did you miss your prescribed letter standard in July?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I apologise, Senator. I was really having trouble hearing your question. I got some of that, but I didn't get all of it. It was something about July, Senator?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, July—your prescribed letters standard.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I need to take that on notice to check the actual numbers but I have the national performance for our regular service in July at 95.9 per cent as a national number.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Could you give it to me by state?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Victoria for August was 86.8. Clearly in August—you remember that that was when also we were subjected to the one-third labour restrictions which impacted our mail facility at Dandenong in Victoria.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So instead of five days to send a letter within Melbourne, what was it?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: The target that we hit is measured on the five, so it won't measure what percentage was at six or seven. So I'll take that figure on notice. If I could understand your question better—it's cutting out. I'm not getting all the question.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What I'm after is—I'm going to come to August, but can you give me a breakdown of July, August and September by state and for what percentage you met the mail delivery standard and where you missed it? I'll take the average. Instead of five days, maybe the average was seven, for example.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Would you like that verbally now, or can I send it to you in a sheet?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You can send it to me in a sheet.</p>	
202.	Australia Post	Kitching	Cartier watch purchase date	<p>Senator KITCHING: ... Going back to the Cartier watches, I'm just going to be clear that you said that they were purchased in October 2018.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: If I recall correctly, but I will take it on notice and we will go back and find out for you.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 27-28

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203.	Australia Post	Kitching	Declaration of interest	<p>Senator KITCHING: Are those registers of interest kept up to date?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Yes, they are. As we're notified of interests, we maintain that in our records.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: The reason I really want the policy is—do you have to declare within a month, for example? When you get them, I imagine, you've got a team and someone dates to register. But are you reliant—or is there a time zone in which directors have to declare there's a conflict of interest?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'm not aware of a specific time frame. But we can take that on notice to clarify and make sure we give you the right information there. My understanding is that that obligation to declare those interests applies as and when they arise. We take a summary of directors' interests to each meeting as well. So as well, directors can declare interest during the course of meetings.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 28
204.	Australia Post	Kitching	Board skills matrix	<p>Senator KITCHING: A lot of boards will have something like a skills matrix to ensure that they cover off necessary skill sets. Do you have one of those for the board?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We do, and that's something that is taken into account by the chair when corresponding with ministers about vacancies on the board. That matrix is something that's prepared as part of our board review that happens on a cycle every two years.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Is it possible that you can table a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'll take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I can understand if you don't want names attached to that, but I would like to understand what skill sets the chair—and I presume it is the chair doing this—considers necessary for the board of Australia Post to have.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'll take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 30
205.	Australia Post	Kitching	Liberal Party fundraisers	<p>Senator KITCHING: Has the chairman ever attended a Liberal Party fundraiser, and would that be declared?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I don't know. I expect that if he did it would be declared.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can you check the register of interests for me?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Yes, I can take that on notice and we'll check.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Has Mr Mario D'Orazio ever attended a Liberal Party fundraiser?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I don't know. Again, I can check with our register to see if such an attendance has been declared.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 30

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206.	Australia Post	Kitching	Engagement with Domestique	<p>Senator KITCHING: I understand that. Did you go through a tender process? Did you look at three firms or five firms and then interview people? How did you arrive at Domestique?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: We had a number of internal discussions. A few of these firms are known to us within the organisation and have we've used them from time to time depending on what we needed. But we did not go through a tender process at that time.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You say they're known to you. How were they known to you?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Just through our work.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: The previous year we engaged somebody, and I think that at that moment in time they looked at a number of different companies and Domestique was one of those who were reviewed. We chose for a particular piece of work to work with somebody. It wasn't my decision. I'm just aware of it.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Whose decision was it? Was that Miss Sheffield's decision?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Yes, it was.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Domestique? No, I think that was Sue Ketter.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sue Ketter?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Yes, we work with Sue. We got some advice with Sue previously. I'd have to take it on notice whose decision it was. But I am aware that when they went through that process to look at whether—they worked with Sue, they looked at Domestique and I think they looked at one other. But I'm happy to come back and give you clarity.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I would like some clarity. Does Sue do consultancy as an individual, or on behalf of a firm?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: She has her own firm. I'm just not familiar with what the name is. My apologies.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's okay. But you'll take that on notice and let us know the name of the firm.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 31

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207.	Australia Post	Kitching	Processes undertaken relating to postcard	<p>Senator KITCHING: The first draft of the postcards that went out explaining that the—it was done in the voice of the postie, if I can put it that way, that were pulped—who drafted that in the organisation, or was that Mr Thornton?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: No, it was not Mr Thornton.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Who did that?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: The original postcard—we will have to take that on notice as to who drafted it, but it would have been within either our marketing or our corporate comms teams. We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So both marketing and corporate comms are under Mr Cox?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: No, marketing is part of community and consumer.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So under you, Ms Sheffield?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: That's right.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Marketing is under you?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Okay, so it was someone in your team. Did you sign off on the postcard?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: No, I did not sign off on that postcard.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Who signed off on it?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: At the time there was a committee assigned to a number of communication strategies. There was a very comprehensive document that was completed by that corporate comms team and all of those people in the committee. That postcard formed part of that that document. So it went through that process within the organisation.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Just for clarity, so we don't provide confusion, the corporate communications team who prepared the postcard—I don't know if they wrote it but they prepared the postcard—report to Mr John Cox, and they shared that postcard with a broad range of people in the delivery area. Senator KITCHING: The corporate comms team reports to Mr Cox; marketing reports to Ms Sheffield. You then formed another committee that was made up of people from different areas. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: That's right—which is very common. When we have big programs of work that are cross-functional across the organisation, we bring working groups together that have expertise in various areas and ensure that we are communicating and working on a project plan that we're all working towards.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You said there's a comprehensive document. Are you able to table that?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Great. And if you can get someone in your team to perhaps email it to the secretariat, they'll be able to distribute it for the committee members.</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: We'll take it on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 32

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208.	Australia Post	Hanson- Young	Increase in parcel deliveries	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You've delivered a \$53.6 million profit before tax, right? That is well up from your \$15 million target. You've had a 17.9 per cent increase in parcel deliveries. Are those figures out of date, just to be clear?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I'm not familiar with that particular percentage. We have Australia Post branded products, StarTrack international parcels—so there are different classifications. But I am happy to take it on notice. We've put our parcel numbers domestically on our website, or the percentage of growth and up and down, after the request from the chair.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 35
209.	Australia Post	McMahon	Temporary regulatory relief – parcel delivery	<p>Senator McMAHON: Ms Holgate, temporary regulatory relief has allowed Australia Post to redeploy posties from what was a declining part of the business, i.e. letters, to a rapidly expanding part of the business: parcel. This was to best meet the needs of the customers. How many more parcels have been delivered as a result of the temporary regulatory relief than would otherwise have been able to be delivered?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I'm going to pass the exact number to Mr Barnes, because there are different ways of delivering. We estimated that the posties had delivered something like 40 million to 50 million more parcels by being in the vans already. And of course what's very important to me is that they're doing this safely.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: For the short time that we've had the temporary regulatory relief in place and specific to the posties in vans, as of last Friday the additional parcels that you would say we could not have otherwise delivered is 4.6 million parcels.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: More than what would have been otherwise?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: That's correct.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Rod, I actually think you've got your numbers wrong. So, Senator, if we may take it on notice, I'll make sure someone clarifies it.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: Yes, there is a discrepancy there in the two figures. So I'm happy for you to take that on notice and get back to us.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 36
210.	Australia Post	Kitching	Mr Thornton	<p>Senator KITCHING: ... Could I just seek to clarify some of the previous responses. In relation to Mr Thornton, did you, Ms Holgate, have any influence on that decision? Did you have any discussion with Mr Nutt, for example, about Mr Thornton?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Mr Nutt has never mentioned Mr Thornton to me.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did you and Ms Sheffield have a discussion about Mr Thornton?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: I can't recall but it wouldn't be unreasonable to say that would happen, but I cannot recall.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Ms Sheffield?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: We discuss a lot of different strategies, approaches et cetera, but I don't recall, no.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So neither of you can recall having a discussion. Would there be anything in writing? By that, I don't mean just email; I also mean by text, by WhatsApp or by any other platform that you may use internally.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 40-41

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				<p>Ms Sheffield: Not to my recollection.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: Not to mine.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So if we were to ask for a search of any communication, we wouldn't find any?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: As I said earlier, we did think about using Mr Thornton—and I can't remember the exact date—some time previously. I was aware that we thought about him and Sue Cato's consultancy; and there was probably another one, but I don't recall. So I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Is it true that Mr Thornton was essentially running corporate affairs?</p> <p>Ms Holgate: No.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I think the term that you used before was 'corporate communications'.</p> <p>Ms Holgate: No.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: How many hours per day was he working—let's take the two-month period—initially?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: The work was done by Domestique; so there were a number of people within Domestique that provided different services. The hours, I would have to take that on notice but it wasn't Mr Thornton per se. There was a group of people involved, depending on what services we needed—whether it was strategic work, whether it was looking at media, assessing different elements of our entire campaign strategy work or community consultation. There were lots of different parts of our organisation in which Domestique's business was engaged.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Macdonald, was it ever discussed at the board level?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I can't recall. I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Do you keep minutes?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We keep minutes, yes. I'm certainly not aware of any reference to Mr Thornton in the minutes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What about in any other documentation that might have been presented to the board or any minutes that were taken but not formally accepted at the next meeting? Sometimes the minute taker might take a lot of minutes or sometimes might recall something and then the minutes might reflect differently. Different boards have different practices but might then have a summary of the discussion. What I'm asking you is to go and look to see whether it was discussed at the board level in any documentation that might have been made by the board or for the board.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'll take that question on notice.</p>	

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211.	Australia Post	Kitching	Unaddressed mail service – letters from postal officers	Senator KITCHING: It's actually just on notice. Ms Holgate referred earlier to a question asked by Senator Carr that related to the unaddressed mail service and that Ms Holgate had received letters from posties. I would ask Ms Holgate to table those letters. Ms Holgate: I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't know that I've got them anymore.	22/10/2020 Page 41
212.	Australia Post	Carr	Sponsorship with the Australian	How much was Australia Post's sponsorship of the virtual e-commerce summit with <i>The Australian</i> newspaper?	29/10/2020 Written
213.	Australia Post	Carr	CPG's	Is Australia Post is exempt from the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines? What is Australia Post procurement policy for local content and supporting Australian made?	29/10/2020 Written
214.	Australia Post	Carr	Fleet	Can Australia Post please provide the current inventory of its fleet including: a) cars b) vans c) trucks d) electric assisted mail bicycles e) three-wheeled electric delivery vehicles f) motor bikes	29/10/2020 Written
215.	Australia Post	Carr	The future of Australia Post's service delivery	In questions on notice to <i>The future of Australia Post's service delivery</i> inquiry Australia Post told the committee that there was an open tender for the electric assisted mail bicycles, but not for the three-wheeled electric delivery vehicles. a) Can Australia Post please explain why one is an open tender and one is not?	29/10/2020 Written
216.	Australia Post	Carr	The future of Australia Post's service delivery - vehicles	Can you please advise how may units you are seeking to procure in the next 5 years and the tender process you would anticipate using to procure the items: a) Cars b) Vans c) Trucks d) electric assisted mail bicycles e) three-wheeled electric delivery vehicles f) Motor bikes	29/10/2020 Written
217.	Australia Post	Roberts	Support for Post Office Licensees	The problem with the current transaction-based payment system not only effects rural and regional offices, but small to medium metro offices as well. The issue is the number of customers that these offices have access to. Rural and regional offices in a lot of cases only have a town population of a few hundred people, which is not enough to sustain themselves, yet licensees are bound by the same or similar agreements to those in more profitable areas.	04/11/2020 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Small and medium metro have a bigger customer base, yet they incur higher overheads.</p> <p>Government is legislated to have these offices as part of its Community Service Obligations, but the licensee is wearing the cost as their businesses are not viable under this 27-year-old payment system.</p> <p>The Licensed Post Office Group (LPOG) put forward a "Return on Expenses" payment model, which LPOG and CEO Holgate have submitted to the Government. They have asked for a 5-year funding transition from the current transaction-based system, to Return on Expenses.</p> <p>LPOG are also calling for an "open the doors payment" or a "Community Access Payment", which would replace the current, inadequate "Representation Allowance" of \$145.26 per month.</p> <p>What is needed is a fair model that values the hard work of these Licensees? When will the Minister and the Government support these hard done by Post Office Licensees for the work they do to provide services, including banking, for remote and regional areas? What will the Government do and when?</p>	
218.	Australia Post	Roberts	Payments to the Licensed Post Office Network	<p>During the current health crisis, the Licensed Post Office Network has more than proven its worth, it has been instrumental in keeping Australia moving. Postal Licensees have gladly played their part, while putting their own health at risk, but they are still only paid \$145.26 per month to deliver your Government's Community Service Obligations</p> <p>When will your Government address this issue by funding a transition from the current transaction based payment, to a "Return on Expenses" payment and also pay LPO's a revised and increased "representation allowance" to ensure their viability and guarantee this essential service Australians rely on?</p>	04/11/2020 Written
219.	Australia Council	Urquhart	Grant funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you describe how demand for grant funding has changed over that same period? From 2014-15 until the present day, has the demand for grant funding risen or fallen?</p> <p>Mr Collette: The overall demand for grant funding has become more competitive; it has risen over that period. We would have to take on notice getting you more refined numbers on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Effectively, you are saying that it has become more competitive, it's risen, but you are happy to provide the numbers on notice?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I would like to do that, just to ensure that you have accurate information, yes. It is always, as you know, very competitive.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Absolutely.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 61

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220.	Australia Council	Hanson- Young	Challenges to the sector – advice to government	<p>Mr Collette: Yes. We provided advice on what we saw as the financial challenges coming down the line the longer this pandemic went on.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did you provide any indicative figures as to how much financial support organisations would need?</p> <p>Mr Collette: We did provide financial figures and modelling through to the end of this year, and then we started to extend that for the partnership organisations and potentially for the four-year funded organisations.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Were those figures given to the department or directly to the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Collette: They were initially given to the Office of the Arts, but we did have a discussion with the Office of the Arts and the minister's office, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you recall what those figures were and what that modelling showed?</p> <p>Mr Collette: It was moving, so it depended on your set of assumptions. We tended to say, 'If this is the scenario, this could well be particularly the cash flow of these organisations over time'.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you're saying that there's a variety of different scenarios; is that what you modelled?</p> <p>Mr Collette: There was best-case and worst-case scenarios.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Was there a scenario in which you found that \$75 million would be enough?</p> <p>Mr Collette: We didn't do anything on the RISE Fund. We advised figures that I know the Office for the Arts looked at very closely and indeed worked with us on some of them and asked questions. And that was provided to the minister. But at no time did we advise any numbers that are reflected in the RISE Fund.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could I ask that we have a copy of that modelling and that advice that you gave to the department.</p> <p>Mr Collette: I am happy to provide it but let me take that on notice and we will come back to you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I appreciate that.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 64-65

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
221.	Classification Board	Van	Classification decisions	<p>Senator VAN: How many classification decisions does the board make every year in relation to, firstly, films; secondly, games; and thirdly, television?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: We made 3,065 decisions in the last financial year, 2019-20. In terms of a breakdown broadly, I can take that on notice and give you the exact details, and they'll be published in the board's annual report. For public exhibition films—films that are going to be screened in a cinema—there were 493 in 2019-20. For other films, which are DVD releases, we did 1,763. There are a range of schemes under the act that allow people to submit additional content. Authorised assessors can submit television series and the like. We did 148 additional content applications, 283 authorised television series applications, 316 computer games and 22 publications. Then there's a range of other decisions that relate to advertising, conditional cultural exemptions and the like that round out to get you to the 3,065.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 70-71

222.	Classification Board	Hanson-Young	<i>Cats</i> film	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm wondering about a specific film on Netflix. It follows on quite well from the questioning that both Senator Urquhart and Senator Van have put to you already. I'm interested in whether you've had any complaints about the film <i>Cats</i>, produced in 2018, directed by Gary Wang. It's on Netflix animation. Have you received any complaints about <i>Cats</i>?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill: Yes, we will have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of any complaints on that title. We usually keep fairly good tabs on titles.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could take that on notice, that would be good. The cartoon is rated PG but it shows animal torture, violent death and alcohol consumption. I'm asking this from both a general public perspective and as a mum. I can understand that sometimes when there is something in an animated form, the themes are perhaps, at times, seen through a different lens than if it was a live drama production. But I know for a fact that this film has actually created great distress amongst a number of small children. That's why I'm asking this; it's been put to me by a constituent.</p> <p>I'm fascinated as to how we're going to manage these things going forward, considering more kids' content is going to be moving to the streaming services. The ABC has been a very good place to access good quality kids' TV, and I think it's right to say that parents would feel quite safe about putting their kids in front of ABC Kids. But our kids are accessing a lot of content on streaming services now, and I'm just not sure whether we're educating parents and families enough about what these different classification types are or how we monitor and ensure that, when they are put in front of a screen, that it is appropriate. Just because it's a cartoon doesn't necessarily mean it's safe. So, from a classification perspective, how do we manage this? More kids are going to be logging on to Netflix, on to Stan, on to other streaming services. The government is putting up money so that content can be made on these services. How do we ensure that there is a correct level of classification and knowledge from the consumer's perspective?</p> <p>Mr O'Neill: With regards to your question about the correct level of classification, the acting director is properly better placed to respond to your query there.</p> <p>Ms Ryan: For a Netflix decision on this particular title, we'd have to absolutely take that on notice and see whether there's been any other information that we've received or any complaints that we've received. In assessing impact of the classifiable elements, the board is required to apply the act, the code and the guidelines when making decisions, and that's no different for the Netflix tool as well. When assessing impact, our guidelines do talk about the fact that when things are more realistic rather than stylised that the impact could be higher. It's not always higher. It's a matter of assessing each film or computer game on its own merit and assessing the context around that. Our guidelines also tell us that context is crucial. So if we were trying to determine whether classifiable elements are justified by a particular story line or a particular theme, that would—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But what work is being done to ensure that consumers know that there is the same level of ability to complain about classification on streaming services? This is a bold, new world in many regards, so there has to be some type of effort being put in to ensure that parents would know, for example, in relation to <i>Cats</i>, if they have problem, it should be raised. I don't think people would have a problem with raising it with the ABC. It's</p>	<p>22/10/2020 Page 71-72</p>
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Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>their ABC. They know what to do. They can ring up and lodge a complaint. I'm not sure, not convinced, that consumers have the same level of awareness about what they do if there is a problem on Netflix.</p> <p>CHAIR: In the interests of time, would you be happy with Ms Ryan to come back to you with an answer on notice about how to address that?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful, but the acting director was about to respond with something.</p> <p>Ms Ryan: The board shares your concerns about that. We feel that there hasn't been a lot of information made publicly available to people to know they can complain to the board, to the department about decisions of the Netflix tool.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Take on notice if there has been a complaint about <i>Cats</i>. It's called <i>Cats—2018</i>, Gary Wang. I'd like to know whether it's been reviewed for classification? Is it still on air? Obviously you'll look into that.</p>	
223.	Classification Board	Antic	Netflix Film 'Cuties'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many complaints has the Classification Board received concerning Cuties, including both individual complaints and "campaign" style complaints? 2. Does the Classification Board consider whether a film breaches the Criminal Code or other criminal laws as part of the classification process? 3. Are there any rights of appeal of the decisions of the Classification Review Board? 4. Under the Classification (Publications, Film and Computer Games) Act 1995 (Cth), National Classification Code and other guidelines and tools relied on by the Classification Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Is it possible for a film to meet a criminal definition of child abuse material, yet nonetheless receive a classification by the Classification Board on account of that illegal material being "justified by context"? 4.2. Is there any material which could not be "justified by context"? That is to say, is it possible for material which is "justified by context" to nonetheless be refused classification because it is criminal in nature? 	29/10/2020 Written
224.	Classification Board	Griff	Publication classifications	<p>Senator GRIFF: Ms Ryan, you advised Senator Van there were 3,065 decisions. They were effectively items that were sent for classification. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: That's correct, yes.</p> <p>Senator GRIFF: You mentioned 22 publications. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator GRIFF: Could you specify on notice what the classifications were that you issued for those publications?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: Absolutely. That information will be in our annual report, but I'm happy to provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator GRIFF: Thanks.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 72

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
225.	Classification Board	Griff	Refused classification books	<p>Senator GRIFF: What are the penalties if you sell a submittable publication?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: I think that those are offences under state and territory legislation. I would have to take that on notice and get that information to you.</p> <p>Senator GRIFF: I'd appreciate that. My understanding is it's a 12-month imprisonment term or 250 penalty units under state acts which, in fact, underpin the National Classification Scheme, which is obviously not causing any issues for those that are continuing to sell these items.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 73
226.	Classification Board	Antic	Cuties film	<p>Senator ANTIC: ... I'm interested in exploring a different title that's received a classification. It's a Netflix film called Cuties. It was given—in September, I believe—an MA 15+ classification, with strong themes. This film depicts an 11-year-old girl, and other girls, in a highly sexualised context. It has been described as being a 'lewd exhibition'. I understand a little bit about the classification process, but I'm interested in learning a little bit more about how it is possible that this film has been given any form of classification in circumstances where it sails so close to the wind in respect of being child abuse material for the purposes of the Criminal Code. Are you able to give me a little bit of background in relation to that?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: I guess I'd preface it by saying the film was classified by the Netflix tool in the first instance, on 8 September 2020. The board, in response to complaints that were received, checked that decision and agreed with the original classification by the Netflix tool. The board's decision on the film Cuties is currently the subject of a review by the Classification Review Board. Therefore it's probably not appropriate for me to comment on the specifics of that decision at this time. I'd be happy to provide you with a copy of the board's decision report, which outlines the reasons for the decision, on notice. I just don't want to be seen to be influencing the outcome of any review at this point in time.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 73
227.	Classification Board	Antic	Complaints reporting	<p>Senator ANTIC: This question's in relation to how many complaints the department's received in addition to those received by the board.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill: Certainly. Exact numbers I cannot provide. We have a range of individual complaints, and then we have campaigns, in which volumes of people complain collectively about the one issue. I'll give you the exact number of complaints as soon as possible.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: That would be good, because my office has received complaints regarding the film and I've, of course, responded to those, so it would be good to know those numbers. I understand that the film is actually the subject of an indictment in the state of Texas in the United States as a result of sailing so close to the wind, so I think this is very encouraging news.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 74

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
228.	Screen Australia	Urquhart	Torres Strait Islander productions	<p>Senator URQUHART: I've got about three questions and then I'm done. In relation to Torres Strait Islander productions and northern Australia specifically, can you tell me how many Torres Strait Islander productions or companies have been recently supported by Screen Australia?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: I would have to take that on notice to ensure that I was correctly identifying people, but we can do that for you, definitely.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you agree that Torres Strait Islander productions and companies are under-represented in the Australian screen sector?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: Again, I would assume that is possibly the case. I can think of a couple of things that we have done, particularly with Aaron Fa'aoso, but I would have to check for you how it worked up. I know Screen Queensland has been doing good work in this—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The sound has dropped out.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I just have a couple more around the Torres Strait Islander production and northern Australia specifically. Can you tell me what strategies, initiatives and programs are being implemented and funded to ensure a greater inclusion of Torres Strait Islander content and creator representation?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: It falls under our Indigenous strategy total. As you know, for 25 years-plus, we have led the way in promoting Indigenous content. We just last year were beginning to author a new strategy which, again, for what it's worth, Aaron Fa'aoso was the presenter and host of that celebration. As I said, we did do a roadshow recently into northern Queensland. I can come back to you with the specifics on what our plans are, but it is certainly on our radar.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could, that would be great. I know you do have commitments to Indigenous production but I wanted to sort of make the delineation between Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders, who often get left out when they are packaged together. Maybe also include in the information what strategies, initiatives and programs are being implemented and funded to develop the screen sector around the north Australia region.</p> <p>Mr G Mason: We would be happy to do that. For what it is worth, as an aside, we fund a lot of very successful Indigenous content out of the Northern Territory. We obviously just shot <i>Mystery Road 2</i> in Broome. We have multiple shows about to go in Alice Springs in the next six or so months. So it's something that we are very pleased to be working in.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You have talked about Alice Springs, Broome. What about anything on the eastern side of the country in northern Australia?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: We have done several projects in northern Queensland, which I will come back to you with. And again, as I say, we have been partnering with our state agency in Queensland to look to do more. We can give you further advice on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That would be great.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 76-77

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
229.	Screen Australia	Hanson- Young	Modelling for Australian feature films	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware of what modelling was undertaken to assess the impact on Australian feature film of reducing the offset rate of 40 per cent to 30 per cent? Have you done modelling in relation to that?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: We do not have that modelling.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You do not?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: We do not.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you seen any modelling in relation to that?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: I have not seen modelling on that impact.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Dr Arnott, does modelling exist? Does the department have access to modelling in relation to that?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We certainly would have done some analysis in preparation for the budget on the 40 per cent to 30 per cent, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: By how much does that reduce the money that would be going to Australian feature films?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I don't have that figure with me. We can potentially provide it on notice. Screen Australia's been provided with an extra \$30 million which they are able to invest in feature film.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes. But how many fewer feature films are going to get filmed is what I'm interested in. You must have had to model that.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: There are multiple aspects to that transition.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes. I'm particularly interested in the cut from 40 per cent to 30 per cent for feature films.</p> <p>Ms Fulton: As part of the costing process for the changes made to the producer offset, that would have factored in the increase from 20 to 30 as well as the decrease from 40 to 30. I don't have that on hand. I would need to check because it featured as part of our costings through the budget process. Yes, there was modelling done on what that impact would be in terms of costs.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Look, I don't think anyone's complaining about the offset going up from 20 to 30. You can obviously understand why some, particularly those who focus on feature films, are feeling like they are the ones who lose out here. So I would like to see what that figure is and what that modelling showed, if you could take that on notice.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 77-78

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
230.	Screen Australia	Hanson- Young	Consultation – Offsets	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take on notice any organisation or anyone you consulted with who proposed reducing the offset from 40 to 30 for feature films?</p> <p>Ms Fulton: I can absolutely take that on notice. I would say it would be characterised as standardising the producer offset.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes, standardising or harmonising.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, but one person's cut is another person's standardising. You could have lifted everything to 40 and that would have standardised it. So I think we've just got to be a little bit—I'm asking who proposed the cut from 40 to 30. If you could answer that question, that would be great. During this consultation process, did you provide or share or discuss any of this modelling that the department had access to with the stakeholders?</p> <p>Ms Fulton: Not as part of the costing process, we wouldn't have done that. We would have used data that we would have received from Screen Australia, on the producer offset, as well as data we have for administering the PDV and location offset and the location incentive as part of the overall modelling that we provided to government—as well as data through Screen Australia through their drama reports and other material.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What's the forecast cost for the increase of the producer offset for television from 20 to 30 per cent?</p> <p>Ms Fulton: It's the same issue. It was part of the costing process and I wouldn't have that at hand.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice. I'd like the forecast for the increase from 20 to 30 for television, and the cost of the savings from the reduction from the 40 to 30. Just to be clear, I'd like both. Thank you. What is the forecast saving, excluding producer overheads from the producer offset and removing the Gallipoli clause from the forward estimates?</p> <p>Ms Fulton: It's the same issue. I wouldn't have that at hand. It was part of the overall costing process of what all of the changes to the offsets were, in terms of the cost to government.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 78-79

231.	NBN Co	Kitching	External stakeholder groups	<p>Senator KITCHING: ... This afternoon I sent a letter to Minister Fletcher in relation to something you may be familiar with. I've asked a series of questions on notice for some detail around the breakdown of your entertainment spend; I started asking about this on 31 October last year. You told me it was \$874,000—and I'll be able to give you the QON number if you need it—for the entertainment spend from 1 July 2018 to 31 October 2019. I have been in a series of correspondence with Mr Singh, and to be honest, Mr Rue, it is just not satisfactory, given that in any other department—I can ask PM&C what wine they are serving at a function and they will tell me. I would like you to answer my questions on notice, some of which are still outstanding, and I would like a breakdown of the \$874,000.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 98]</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Rue, do you think you are going to be able to provide me with a breakdown—let's go from 1 July 2018. Do you think you can provide with a breakdown of the external stakeholder groups, when those functions and events were held, where you held them and how much those functions and events cost?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Firstly, I don't know if we would have all that information. Secondly, it would take a very long time to do that exercise.</p> <p>...</p> <p>[Further context on page 99]</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Okay. Mr Rue, just so you know, I'm really not going to give up on the breakdown, and I'm sure that Senator Hume has shown you the letter I wrote this afternoon to Mr Fletcher.</p> <p>Mr Rue: She hasn't, but—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'm happy for you to have a copy of it. That's what I actually want. Given that you're now spending \$57 billion of taxpayer money—I first started asking these questions in October 2019, and I was asking about the previous financial year. So what I'm going to do to help you is to ask for information from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, so the last financial year. We're not looking back into the dim, dark, distant past. I'm not looking at what you seem to say is some sort of historical expenditure, but at the last financial year. What I would like you to do is to tell me how many external stakeholder groups you held, when they were held, where they were held and how much did each one cost?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, Senator—certainly send that question in. The problem we have—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No; I'm not sending it in to you, Mr Rue. You are taking that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Okay, I'm happy to take it on notice. I'm seriously trying to help you. As I said to you, there are thousands and thousands of expense claims, and thousands and thousands of line items, and that information is probably not captured. So, firstly, do we have the information and, secondly, you're asking us to spend a lot of employees' time digging through information to try to answer your question. More broadly, as I keep saying: I assure you that our expenditure is very well managed.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'm not interested in what you think—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Kitching, you have asked the question. Mr Rue has taken it on notice.</p>	<p>22/10/2020 Page 96 & 98-99</p>
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Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
232.	NBN Co	Van	Revised multitechnology mix and the revised outlook	<p>Senator VAN: Mr Rue, are you familiar with the strategic review and the various costing scenarios between a revised multitechnology mix and the revised outlook?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I am, although it predated my time at the company. But, yes, I am familiar with the—well, I could get myself familiar again, but I have read it several times.</p> <p>Senator VAN: If we need to put things on notice, we'll get to that if we need to. So the strategic review said on page 17 that the rollout of the network under Labor's all-fibre approach would cost around \$73 billion.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Sorry, Senator; I'm just getting the document. Which page did you refer to?</p> <p>Senator VAN: It's page 17. Please check, but you can take my word for it.</p> <p>Mr Rue: 'Scenario 1: Revised Outlook'—\$73 billion. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator VAN: So knowing what you know now about the rollout of the network, do you think this estimate is, say, ballpark accurate?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I haven't done any work on that particular analysis. As I said, this document predated me. I'd have to go and have a—I have never done that analysis, to tell you the truth.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Would any of your colleagues like to have a go at that answer, or would you like to take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rue: No. With the exception of Kathrine, they have all come after the strategic review as well. But what I would say is that this document was obviously put forward by the company at that time, and that would have been the analysis at the time.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Sure. You can take that one on notice, if you would.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 100

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
233.	NBN Co	Kitching	Chief Financial Officer	<p>Senator KITCHING: ...Now, who is the chief financial officer of NBN?</p> <p>Mr Rue: It's Mr Philip Knox.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Where is he?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Where is he?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't know where he is at the moment; I can't tell you.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: But he's not here—he's not in the estimates room, or online or available?</p> <p>Mr Rue: He's not in the estimates room and he's not online, no. But I'm happy to answer whatever questions you have as best I can. Or if I can't there are my colleagues—there are five of us here. Shoot away and we'll try to answer your question.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. How long has he been employed at the NBN?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I believe he started in February 2019.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You believe? Wouldn't it be better to have him here and he might be able to tell us definitively?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I can check for you. I'm 99 per cent sure that's the right date.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Just bear with me one second and I'll find it. Yes, I was right; he was appointed in February 2019.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: On what date?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't know the exact date, but from memory I think it was the first Monday. I could be wrong on that—I think it was 6 February, actually. I don't know why I remember that, but I think it was.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I can take that on notice, Senator, certainly.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 102
234.	NBN Co	Kitching	Marketing plan – events and functions	<p>Senator KITCHING: Do you have a marketing plan?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: Yes, we do.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Oh good—that's what I asked you a few minutes ago. You have a marketing plan. What I want to know is, on that marketing plan, are there events or functions?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I'd have to take that on notice. That would be a very small portion of what we do. Typically what we're doing is much more of a broad reach, so it would be a very small part—the functions such as what you're talking about.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 104

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
235.	NBN Co	Pratt	Corporate plan – assumptions	<p>Senator PRATT: How long would a customer need to stay on a plan? Have you looked at what their contract term would be? Your corporate plan must have relied on an assumption of some sort in order to get the figures that you have.</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: Yes, we may have an assumption in there, but currently the relationship we've got with retailers is that customers can come off the network basically on a day's notice, so we don't have a lock-in for customers to the RSPs.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If it's not a contract, you're assuming that everyone stays in indefinitely and doesn't drop back down again. Is that what the assumption in the plan is, if it's not assumed in the form of a contract?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I'd have to double-check that, but it would be a reasonable expectation that, if somebody is currently on a service and they've ordered a higher-speed service, they would stay on that higher speed [inaudible] but typically when somebody upgrades their speed plan they stay on that plan.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could confirm that's the assumption your corporate plan is based on, I would be grateful.</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I'm happy to.</p>	<p>22/10/2020 Page 116-117</p>
236.	NBN Co	Van	Sky Muster Plus	<p>Senator VAN: Are you able to project the volume of those plans—how that might grow?</p> <p>Mr Williams: Yes, but we need to revise our figures because they're exceeding our expectations right now.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Maybe take that one on notice for me, if you would.</p> <p>Mr Williams: Yes, happy to.</p>	<p>22/10/2020 Page 120-121</p>

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
237.	NBN Co	Pratt	Blended average – FTTN to on-demand fibre	<p>Senator PRATT: In that context, how much additional revenue per month does your corporate plan assume will be achieved by someone who switches from FTTN to on-demand fibre?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, that will be in the outer years, but it will be a range of things from what Brad talked about. If you have a customer paying \$45 today to use 50 services, they may pay \$58 or \$68 to us, depending on the higher speeds they want. There will be a range of increases in average revenue per user depending on what happens.</p> <p>CHAIR: Last question, Senator Pratt.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That's what your corporate plan assumes. What's the blended average?</p> <p>Mr Rue: What's the blended average?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In your corporate plan, because you have a range of values there.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Our corporate plan goes to 2024. Beyond those years, there would be further growth in revenues from, we think, more and more people connecting to our service because of the demand for broadband, more people buying higher speed tiers and more business revenue. But that's outside of this corporate plan, because that's beyond 2024. But we would expect—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Just to be clear, you've said it goes from 58 to 68—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Pratt—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm really looking for an average of what the customer your corporate plan—</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Rue, could you perhaps take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Sure.</p>	22/10/2020 Page 123-124
238.	NBN Co	Green	HFC rollout in Holland Park QLD	<p>a. When will gigabit speeds become available over HFC in Beddoes St, Holland Park QLD?</p> <p>b. When will 250/25 megabit speeds become available over HFC in Beddoes St, Holland Park QLD?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
239.	NBN Co	McCarthy	Remote Communities	<p>Will NBN Co be rolling out the NBN's public interest premise product to remote communities to provide Skymuster Plus digital access services, enabling remote communities to access Government services online without incurring data charges? If so please name the areas it will be rolled out to and the timeline for the rollout.</p>	11/11/20 Written