

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-22 – 29 NOVEMBER 2021**

**INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO**

<b>QoN No.</b>	<b>Portfolio QoN No.</b>	<b>Department /Agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Hearing Date</b>	<b>Transcript Page</b>
202	SQ21-001229	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Online Safety Act ad campaign	<p>Senator GREEN: I have some questions just following up about the government's plan to spend \$4.4 million this year on an ad campaign for the Online Safety Act. I asked some questions at the previous estimates in regard to this. Can I just confirm: when will the ad campaign commence and conclude? What are the dates?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The campaign is expected to commence at the end of January 2022.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: And when is it finishing up?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I will see if we have an estimated length. I can take that on notice for you. It will commence at the end of January. How long it is expected to run for I don't have to hand.</p>	29/11/2021	3
203	SQ21-001230	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Online Safety Act ad campaign - ORIMA Research - market testing (CN 3805884)	<p>Senator GREEN: ORIMA Research was contracted by the department to undertake market testing. There was a recent contract, numbered CN 3805884. What was the value of that research contract?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'll see if an officer has the details here. Otherwise, I am happy to take that on notice. I don't have the number, but, if we have it, we will get it for you.</p>	29/11/2021	3
204	SQ21-001231	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Online Safety Act - Creative agency advertising	<p>Senator GREEN: I've got a lot of questions in regard to these practices. Is there someone here today that has information about advertising?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We don't have anyone. The corporate area of the department has all of the details around the communications piece, so I'm happy to get those details for you. We can probably get those for you in the course of the afternoon. I probably don't have the officer that would have all those details to hand here, but</p>	29/11/2021	3

					<p>we can try to get them for you this afternoon. Please let us know what it is you are after the contract details for.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay. I do have a number of questions in relation to the creative agency. I'm also interested in the contract related to the advertising. If you don't have this information, could you take on notice what the contract number is and the value of the contract?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Certainly.</p>		
205	SQ21-001232	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	New Online Safety Act	<p>Senator GREEN: Does it include any other parts of the act itself, or just the Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It's primarily focused around the new Online Safety Act. The key new element of that is obviously the Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Will it promote other elements of the act as well, or just the scheme itself?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Can I take that one on notice?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes, sure...</p>	29/11/2021	4
206	SQ21-001233	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Anti-siphoning list - Twenty20 cricket events	<p>Senator GREEN: What's on the list at the moment in relation to the T20 tournament and the final, if it's played?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not sure at all what T20 events are on the list, but I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: The current antisiphoning list that I have in front of me includes the final of the T20 tournament, but only if it's played in Australia or New Zealand. Does that sound right to you?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That sounds quite plausible. I don't have the list in front of me, but I'm happy to take your word for that.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: And it doesn't include the final of the T20 if Australia is playing.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: If it's as you described it in the list, that sounds correct.</p>	29/11/2021	4 to 5
207	SQ21-001234	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Nita Green	Concerns raised by Mr D'Orazio with the Minister	<p>Senator GREEN: Senator Hume, do you know if any concerns were raised with the minister by Mr D'Orazio?</p>	29/11/2021	6

		Regional Development and Communications			Senator Hume: Not that I'm familiar with, but I can take it on notice		
208	SQ21-001235	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Resignation of Dr Vanessa Guthrie	<p>Senator GREEN: I think there's been another resignation-Dr Vanessa Guthrie resigned from the board of the ABC. What date did that happen?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Dr Guthrie resigned on 19 March 2021.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: How far through her term was she when she resigned?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I will have to take that on notice. I will come back to you this afternoon with that.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Did she provide any reasons for her resignation?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I honestly can't remember off the top of my head. I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	6
209	SQ21-001236	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Concerns raised by Dr Guthrie with the Minister	<p>Senator GREEN: Senator Hume, did Dr Guthrie raise any concerns or issues with the minister when she resigned?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Not that I'm aware of. I'll take it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	6
210	SQ21-001237	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	ACMA vacancies	<p>Senator GREEN: Are there any current vacancies on the ACMA?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think there are. I'd have to take on notice what the total number of positions can be, but I think there are technically some vacancies on the ACMA.</p>	29/11/2021	6
211	SQ21-001238	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Status of all statutory board appointments in the Communications portfolio	<p>Senator GREEN: Can you take something on notice, while we're finishing up. Can you provide on notice the status of all statutory board appointments in the communications portfolio, including current vacancies, current appointments and when terms are expiring.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	6

212	SQ21-001239	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	ABC enhanced news-gathering program - Ministerial consultation	<p>Senator SHELDON: However, Minister, you declined to confirm whether or not the enhanced news-gathering program funding for regional Australia would be extended when it runs out mid next year. Are you able to confirm if it will be extended?</p> <p>Senator Hume: All details of the ABCs funding will be released in the budget, as is normal practice. We have the date for the budget today, so it will be 29 March. What I can say to you is that, yes, the 2021-22 budget papers did reflect the restoration of indexation for the ABC. That doesn't necessarily reflect a decision being taken. It's an assumption that's been put into that budget.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Has the minister consulted with the minister for regional communications about this issue?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't have an answer for you on that. I can take it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	10
213	SQ21-001240	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Budgeted legal fees	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Anderson, how much does the ABC budget for legal fees per year?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: At the moment the budget for ABC legal is approximately-I'll confirm it on notice-\$7 million per annum. That doesn't exclude what we do outside of the ABC, from time to time. So it does vary depending on the matters of the year.</p>	29/11/2021	11
214	SQ21-001241	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Budget to defend legal actions against ministers	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Minister, how much does the government budget for legal costs to cover action taken against ministers each year?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I would think you're asking the wrong minister that question.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'd like you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can ask the Attorney-General for you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to be clear, you will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm happy to take it on notice, but it's not a relevant question for this committee.</p>	29/11/2021	12

215	SQ21-001242	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Notice of Concern	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can I invite you to seriously consider that as being a complete obfuscation and something which just does not address the material matter. The ABC was not served, was it? It was Ms Milligan that was served.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm going to have to clarify on notice for you exactly how it came to us. I will get back to you about that.</p>	29/11/2021	16
216	SQ21-001243	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - legal advice from General Counsel	<p>Senator ABETZ: Really? So the general counsel just wafts into your office from time to time and says, 'By the way, I've got some interesting legal advice for you'? Please!</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When it was first raised that there was an issue in regard to Mr Laming-whether this conversation happened or not, we are not liable for that because it is personal use of social media, so I was not expecting advice contrary to that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but what occasioned this advice to come to you? Who started it off? I've just been told that, in fact, the email went directly to Ms Milligan. So check that up for me and confirm that that advice is correct.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We will confirm it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	16
217	SQ21-001244	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Ms Milligan served with a Notice of Concern	<p>Senator ABETZ: How did the ABC, as an organisation, even know that Ms Milligan had been served with a notice of concern?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm going to have to respond to you on notice in regard to that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It was 27 May when I was first contacted by the general counsel, who said that the ABC, at that point, may have had vicarious liability because of the contents of that tweet.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And how did you find out that the notice of concern had been served on Ms Milligan?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I was advised by the general counsel that that had happened.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: On 22 May?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, somewhere between when the concerns notice was issued, which I believe to be the fifth-</p>	29/11/2021	16-17

					<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, I think we can agree on that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: and 22 May, I was advised by my general counsel that this existed.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry, when was that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know precisely. I don't know when precisely between the fifth and the 22nd I was spoken to about it. It was some time ago. I don't know. But I was aware of it because it was raised with me by the general counsel.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So we still don't know how this materialised?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will confirm to you on notice what I can. When the general counsel spoke to me? I don't know. It was somewhere between the 5th and the 22nd that they alerted me to it. But the 22nd was the first time that I was advised by the general counsel that we might have some legal liability.</p>		
218	SQ21-001245	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Inquiry into ABC and SBS complaints handling - ministerial awareness	<p>Senator GREEN: I have some questions for the minister. Minister, did the review put forward through this committee for a Senate inquiry into the ABC and SBS come as a surprise to the minister for communications?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't answer that. I can take it on notice, though. I would imagine that you could ask Senator Bragg, who's sitting directly above you.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I'm asking about what the minister was aware of. Like it or not, the chair's not actually sitting behind that table. Do you know if the minister knew that Senator Bragg was proposing to initiate an inquiry of that kind?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I would imagine that if it was a surprise-which was your last question-then no. But if it wasn't a surprise-which I will take on notice to endeavour to find out for you-then yes.</p>	29/11/2021	18
219	SQ21-001246	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Nita Green	Inquiry into ABC and SBS complaints handling - ministerial consultation	<p>Senator GREEN: Do you know if Senator Bragg consulted with the minister for communications before initiating the Senate inquiry?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Again, it really depends on the question I've taken on notice-the first question that you have asked. So I will take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	19

		Development and Communications					
220	SQ21-001247	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Inquiry into ABC and SBS complaints handling - ministerial criticism	<p>Senator GREEN: Minister, do you know when the minister conveyed any criticism of the inquiry to Senator Bragg or the PMO? When were any issues raised about the inquiry itself?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't answer that, but I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Could you also take on notice whether that criticism was conveyed before or after the ABC chair issued her statement, which was on 14 November 2021, just so you've got a reference date?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'd have to confirm first whether there was criticism before I can confirm whether the criticism was conveyed.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That's why I'm asking you to take that on notice. Following on from that, did the minister for communications contact the Prime Minister about the statement from the chair that was made on 14 November? As you're aware, Minister, in preparing for these estimates, I'm sure you understand that there was a statement made by the chair that the inquiry 'appears to be a blatant attempt to usurp the role of the ABC board and undermine the operational independence of the ABC'. Did the communications minister contact the Prime Minister in relation to that statement?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I will take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	19
221	SQ21-001248	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Offer of indemnification to Ms Milligan	<p>Senator ABETZ: I'll continue on with Ms Milligan. On 25 May, you, Mr Anderson, indicated to her that the ABC was willing to indemnify her. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't think I did personally. I think I authorised the general counsel to go and convey that. I don't know how that was conveyed.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So you didn't offer?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I didn't personally offer it, no.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Do you know who personally offered?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, I don't. I imagine it was probably the general</p>	29/11/2021	23

					<p>counsel.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You didn't think it important to find out for these hearings?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No; other than—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you can take that on notice, please, and find out from within the ABC. What was Ms Milligan's reaction to being told she was getting an offer of indemnification in circumstances where she had never requested it? It'd be a bit of a bolt out of the blue—a bit like winning Tattsлото! She'd be exceptionally surprised, would she not?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know the answer to that question, because I was not the one providing the offer. I'll have to return to you on notice.</p>		
222	SQ21-001249	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - terms of offer to Ms Milligan	<p>Senator ABETZ: What were the terms of the offer?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: With regard to the precise terms of the offer, these things are privileged, and they're not something that I believe should be revealed other than to say that the offer was made.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: I understand that privilege doesn't actually prevent information being provided to the Senate. We can choose to take it in camera and not publish it. Is that correct?</p> <p>CHAIR: All of it's got to be public, actually, at estimates.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: This is not privileged information in any way. This is internal within the ABC—one official saying to another official: 'Guess what? We might indemnify you.' The terms of that indemnification, surely, are open to be considered by this committee.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice and come back to you.</p>	29/11/2021	23
223	SQ21-001250	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Terms of indemnification with Ms Milligan	<p>Senator ABETZ: Alright. I would want to know whether the terms of the indemnification meant that the ABC then seized full control of the matter.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think I've already taken that on notice. We are coming back to you by the 10th.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Wait a minute. You must know what you</p>	29/11/2021	23

					<p>authorised the general counsel to pass on to Ms Milligan, so you don't need to take that on notice, surely. Was the indemnification such that the ABC would take control of the proceedings?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, to the greatest degree possible. What the terms were that were put to Ms Milligan I do not know.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Was it, for example, that she needed to apologise immediately? That would diminish the damage to the ABC, should the ABC be vicariously liable, which I dispute. But, if that is what occasioned the interest of the ABC in this matter, then surely the ABC would have been laser focused to make sure to limit the damages, and, as a result, an apology should have been first cab off the rank. Was that part of the indemnity? If not, why not?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you with regard to what was provided as part of the indemnity. I do know that we were seeking and did issue a clarification statement. As I said earlier, it was not as simple as apologising and it all went away. That was not the situation that was before us. It was simply not that simple. It was more complicated than that.</p>		
224	SQ21-001251	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - cost of indemnity	<p>Senator ABETZ: Why was it deemed that urgent that a verbal update be given for such a small amount-some \$200,000-that you had full discretion over it? I happen to think it's a large amount, but others have suggested it is not so. Why was it deemed important enough for a verbal account. Why couldn't it have waited for the next board meeting?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That board meeting was in June. The next board meeting was in August. The general counsel will give an update of all serious matters in regard to every board meeting. With anything that is on foot there is a verbal update. There is always a delay-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: For every one. Alright.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When the papers are issued, which is a week out from the board meeting, there is always something that has evolved.</p>	29/11/2021	24

					<p>Senator ABETZ: So in this verbal update from general counsel to the board, did general counsel indicate the judgement of 8 June, the day before, in the equity commercial list? That is, Checkout Pty Ltd v Cordell Jigsaw Productions Pty Ltd. The judge said, amongst other things, on paragraph 38, in relation to another matter, that the ABC 'had expressed no regret for its conduct, let alone offered an apology to the court'. Paragraph 41 says, 'That is not how any party, let alone a model litigant such as the ABC, should conduct itself.' At the very, the judge tells us, 'In the circumstances before me, the court's disapprobation of the ABC's conduct would better be expressed by an order for costs.' So my first question is: was the ABC board advised of this judgement at that board meeting on 9 June?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't recall, but I'll take it on notice and I'll-</p>		
225	SQ21-001252	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Costs awarded against the ABC	<p>Senator ABETZ: How much were the costs that were awarded against the ABC, pursuant to paragraph 55 of the judgment?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice and find out for us.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I will.</p>	29/11/2021	24-25
226	SQ21-001253	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - Senator McGrath speech in Senate chamber concerning Ita Buttrose	<p>Senator SHELDON: I want to go to comments made on 23 November 2021 by Senator McGrath who has the top spot, as we know, on the Queensland Senate ticket for the next election for his party. He gave a speech in the Senate chamber where he referred to the chair of the ABC, Ita Buttrose, as arrogant and a first-nighter of the opera who sneers at middle Australia. He said:</p> <p>This ABC who sneers at us is led by an arrogant chair who sees the ABC as a country apart from Australia. And that is quite sad.</p> <p>He went on further to say:</p> <p>But in conjunction with the first-night crowd, the chair of the ABC and her fellow first-nighters are at the opera, chinking their champagne glasses, sneering at middle Australia and at those who believe in a pluralistic, diverse media market.</p> <p>Minister, has the communications minister defended Ms Buttrose</p>	29/11/2021	25-26

					<p>or repudiated Senator McGrath's comments?  Senator Hume: Senator McGrath is not a member of the executive and hasn't represented the views of the government in that statement.  Senator SHELDON: So he's been privately spoken to about it, has he?  Senator Hume: I wouldn't know that. I will take it on notice, though.</p>		
227	SQ21-001254	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Inquiry into the future of public broadcasting by Senator McGrath	<p>Senator SHELDON: In the same speech, Senator McGrath said this of the ABC:  The Australian Broadcasting Corporation needs to be reformed to be saved from itself.  He went on to say:  It is time for there to be reform of the ABC. It is time for the recruitment process to be opened up. It is time for their inner-city headquarters to be sold and for their staff to be shifted to regional Australia. It is time for there to be a proper review of the charter of the ABC.  He went on further to say:  I have written to the minister for communications calling for an inquiry into the future of public broadcasting in this country ... We need to determine whether there is a need to fund triple J and all these different TV and radio stations.  Does the communications minister share those views?  Senator Hume: I have not read the letter from Senator McGrath, and I couldn't answer on behalf of the communications minister, but I would imagine that, if he did share those views, he would have done something about them much earlier. No, I can pretty much guarantee that he does not share those views. That said, no organisation, government entity or otherwise, is above reform.  Senator SHELDON: I was at the speech in the Senate chamber by Senator McGrath. It was a speech in the Senate chamber.  Senator Hume: Was it an adjournment speech?</p>	29/11/2021	26

					<p>Senator SHELDON: It could have been an adjournment speech. Does the minister for communications think that there should be a charter review of the ABC?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Not that I'm aware of. I'll take it on notice, though. I think that the ABC charter has stood the test of time.</p>		
228	SQ21-001255	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Dr Laming MP call for an ABC ombudsman	<p>Senator SHELDON: On 25 November 2021 Andrew Laming MP called for an ombudsman for the national broadcaster. He said: We need a public broadcasting ombudsman and FOI decisions not done by the ABC for the ABC.</p> <p>Minister Hume, does the communications minister agree with Dr Laming that there should be a public broadcasting ombudsman?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I haven't heard that position from Dr Laming before so that's news to me. I'll have to take that question on notice, but I would imagine that, if the minister for communications did think that that was the case, he would have instituted it by now.</p>	29/11/2021	27
229	SQ21-001256	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - Complaint by John Elferink former Attorney General of the Northern Territory	<p>Senator McMAHON: Can I put to you a complaint by the former Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, John Elferink, which was put to you outside of the time frame? The reasons for that were explained. The complaint was dismissed. It was quite a serious and substantial complaint, which resulted in a royal commission. I will just put that to you and ask: what were the reasons that this complaint, given its seriousness and the substantial evidence that was produced, was not considered? Why was this summarily dismissed?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I'd need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: I'm happy to table the details of the complaint, the ABC's responses and Mr Elferink's responses to those to help you with providing an answer to that question.</p>	29/11/2021	28-29
230	SQ21-001257	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Sarah Hanson-Young	Apology from Senator Small to the Managing Director of the ABC	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Minister, will Minister Fletcher ask Senator Small to apologise to the managing director of the ABC?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't know his intentions, but I will take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	31

		Development and Communications					
231	SQ21-001258	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Publicising of Notice of concern	<p>Senator ABETZ: You agreed to indemnify Ms Milligan. Was Dr Laming or his counsel advised of that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm going to have to respond to you on notice. I assume so, but I can't confirm that for you until-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Please take that on notice. I would have thought, as a model litigant with a huge organisation and a \$1.1 billion budget, coming into a private dispute-if you're a model litigant, it might have been appropriate to publicise that this notice of concern will now be dealt with by the ABC and that they were now indemnifying-</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Certainly, Senator. I will respond to you on notice as to whether that happened-I assume it did-and when it did.</p>	29/11/2021	34
232	SQ21-001259	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Amount being paid to PwC	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you very much, Chair. In relation to the advisory firm PwC, how much is it being paid by the ABC-and therefore by the taxpayer-to investigate underpayments, and to undertake a review of buyouts of penalties and overtime for some staff?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We might have to get back to you on notice because that would be spanning two financial years. We do hire PwC for other activities, so we'd need separate out that particular activity that PwC has performed for us over both those financial years and come back to you.</p>	29/11/2021	34-35
233	SQ21-001260	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Salaries including other senior management	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide us the information that you can in relation to salaries, including other senior management where there is no prohibition contractually on you providing that information to the Senate?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. To be honest, you're going to get information on the KMPs in the tables that we've got, both the senior executive and other highly paid staff, and that goes by band consistent with our obligations. What I will say, if I can, is that we've been going through a process of eliminating at-risk payments for high senior</p>	29/11/2021	36

					<p>executives and highly paid senior executives, where at-risk was a proportion of their remuneration. It was held back for anywhere between 10 percent and 20 percent of their agreed and contracted remuneration, pending performance. That's where you'll see it turn up in the bonus column. It is an at-risk payment, and we've been in the process of phasing that out. We are on delayed payments of those at-risk payments, so those people such as Mr Morris have moved off at-risk payments. We've been through that process, but we're on delay when it comes to at-risk payments from the calendar year to the financial year.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Just to be clear, apart from you and Mr Morris, which other executives have their salaries disclosed?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: They're the KMPs. Ms Kleyn, do you have the reference?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide us that detail on notice, please?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Certainly.</p>		
234	SQ21-001261	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Phillip Adams tweet about Barnaby Joyce	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll now move to your social media policy. As you know, in previous estimates we've had some robust discussions about your social media policy, the ABC's lack of ability to ask its staff to comply with the policy and ABC personnel not complying with the policy. I want to table a tweet from Phillip Adams. On 25 November 2021 he said:</p> <p>Barnaby Joyce has the head of a Halloween pumpkin wherein the candle of intelligence barely flickers.</p> <p>On what basis is Mr Adams permitted to make that sort of comment on social media?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will look at it on notice. But, based on what you've just said, we're quite explicit within the policy about not bringing the ABC into disrepute. On the face of it, I think we need to look closely at that tweet, if you could provide it to me.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you also have a look at replies to Mr Adams's tweet? There's an image of a person with a pumpkin head</p>	29/11/2021	36-37

					and then there are other derogatory comments. Mr Anderson, we have discussed the unhinged manner in which many ABC employees conduct themselves on social media. How is this still happening? In all honesty, how are you, as the managing director, allowing this to continue to happen? This clearly brings the ABC into disrepute.		
235	SQ21-001262	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Antony Green Twitter handle	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could I draw your attention to another post-Antony Green. If I could table this-</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This one relates to your social media code, which requires ABC employees not to include 'ABC' in the Twitter handle. Antony Green's Twitter handle is @AntonyGreenABC. Why is this being permitted to occur with obviously very high profile ABC employees?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, Senator, we have made it clear-and, for those examples where people are transgressing, then, yes, if they are brought to our attention, we deal with it. People should not have 'ABC' in their Twitter handle. We've asked that. Certainly we've asked people to identify on their personal social media accounts that their views are theirs and not the views of the ABC. So, again, I will look into it, Senator.</p>	29/11/2021	38
236	SQ21-001263	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - retweeting by Isobel Roe	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Isobel Roe-what's her role with the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Isobel Roe-I want to say a journalist, audio from memory, background briefing. I'm right! So how can I help you?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to table a tweet from Isobel Roe from 24 November 2021 where she retweets someone else making the comment, 'Trending in Australia #LiarLiarShartOnFire', referring to the Prime Minister. Can I table that tweet as well.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will look into those and-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I just ask on what basis ABC journalists are retweeting that material.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will look into those and respond to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Does that look to you to be in compliance</p>	29/11/2021	38

					<p>with your social media code?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll look at it online-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you're calling the Prime Minister-which is essentially what this is saying-'liar, liar', doesn't retweeting that bring the ABC into disrepute?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It sounds very much like it, but I'll take a look at it for you and respond to you on notice.</p>		
237	SQ21-001264	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Bluey	<p>Senator PRATT: I can quote many of the episodes back to you, which is a good sign of how often my household has watched it. I understand that the ABC provides Bluey in Mandarin, as well as audiodescribed for blind and vision impaired audiences. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I believe so. I believe it has. I'll confirm on notice, but, for both of those, including audiodescription-yes.</p>	29/11/2021	38
238	SQ21-001265	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Australian Children's Television Foundation involvement in production of Bluey	<p>Senator PRATT: On budget night, communications minister Paul Fletcher put out a media release. It was dated 11 May and it stated that funding was provided to the Australian Children's Television Foundation, which 'has played a pivotal role in the success of iconic Australian programs, such as Round the Twist' and 'more recent productions including Bluey'. Mr Anderson, is that statement in the minister's release on budget night correct? Was the Australian Children's Television Foundation involved in the production of Bluey?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm going to say yes. It's hard to imagine that they wouldn't be. But I will confirm that on notice to you. Bluey has had several seasons over several years. We don't own Bluey. Bluey is an externally co-commissioned production with Ludo, who are based in Brisbane, and so it would have external sources of funding to it, yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It's my understanding that the original funding, as far as government support goes, came from the BBC and the ABC in commissioning the series, not from the Australian Children's Television Foundation. Is that correct?</p>	29/11/2021	39

					Mr Anderson: If ACTF are involved, then they would be involved from the beginning. But certainly the idea came from Ludo. There is investment from BBC Studios-which is, if you like, their international arm-as well as the ABC, of course. Then you would have other funding inputs. But I'll confirm on notice whether ACTF are an investor. I would think that they were.		
239	SQ21-001266	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Funding for Bluey from the Australian Children's Television Foundation	Senator PRATT: So the minister's press release as of budget night is incorrect. The ACTF did not give 'dollarbucks', which is one of the colloquialisms from Bluey that many of us now know. 'Dollarydoos' or 'dollarbucks' did not come from the ACTF; they came from the commissioning of the ABC and BBC. Senator Hume: I haven't seen that press release, but I will confirm that for you.	29/11/2021	39
240	SQ21-001267	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Amount of funding secured by the Australian Children's Television Foundation since 2020	Senator PRATT: Thank you. Mr Anderson, the minister did announce funding for the ACTF-some \$35 million since 2020-to boost development, production and distribution of high-quality Australian children's content. How much funding has the ABC secured via the Australian Children's Television Foundation since 2020? Mr Anderson: I'll confirm on notice but I'm going to go from memory. I believe that, of the \$20 million, ACTF have spent approximately \$10 million, of which there are several programs that are with the ABC. That totals about \$5 million. I will confirm that on notice for you.	29/11/2021	39
241	SQ21-001268	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Complaint to Ms Buttrose regarding conduct	Senator PRATT: In terms of following up questions taken on notice, and which ones have been answered, have the government supplied an answer to question No. 264, portfolio question year 21-501, year 21-22 budget estimates, for this portfolio? Senator Hume: Answers to questions on notice aren't due until 10 December. CHAIR: Senator Pratt, are you referring to questions taken from estimates before the last session or the most recent session? Senator PRATT: I think I'm referring to ones from the session	29/11/2021	39-40

				<p>before, post budget, but I'll just seek some clarification of that. It's not the additional estimates; it's the original budget estimates, as I understand it.</p> <p>CHAIR: If the question is about the most recent session, we haven't received those answers yet.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand that. I'll seek some clarification on that. In that question, though, Senator McAllister asked whether Mr Morrison had complained to Ms Buttrose about her conduct. At the time, Senator Hume, you said that you weren't aware of any complaints and that it would be taken on notice as to whether there was such a complaint. Senator Hume, given you're at the middle of this, in terms of affirming this, are you now aware whether there was or was not a complaint made?</p> <p>Senator Hume: When the questions on notice are returned, I will make sure you have an answer, Senator Pratt.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But it's not within your knowledge now as to whether Prime Minister Morrison made a complaint or not?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I haven't completed my questions on notice for you, Senator Pratt.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is your last question, Senator Pratt.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: This is from June. This is not from the recent estimates. These were the budget estimates, so the answer to this was due. I'm seeking an answer to that question this evening, please.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't have that question on notice in front of me. I'm still unaware of any discussions that may have occurred, so I can get back to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You've taken it on notice previously, and the answers are overdue because they were on notice from June.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I will take on notice the fact that questions on notice are overdue.</p>		
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242	SQ21-001269	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Ben Small	ABC - Apology	<p>Mr Anderson: Well, it is true. As of 5 May, when the concerns notice came in, we weren't involved. I was aware by the 22 to 25 May. The 22nd is when I got advice from my general counsel to say, actually, we believe that the ABC is potentially vicariously liable with regard to the matter, as well as the issue with regard to the fact that one of those tweets involved the other legal matter, which presented a problem to us. So, from that moment on, yes, after being told that the ABC was vicariously liable, we obviously provided indemnity subsequent to that. That was the advice I got from general counsel. As to the distance between 5 May, when the initial concerns notice came in, and when we were involved in trying to settle the matter, having provided that indemnity, I can't speak of what transpired in between. But I know that some of the options put to me by my general counsel in trying to resolve the matter meant that we got a response back that said, 'No apology—you'll need to accept this offer of compromise.'</p> <p>Senator SMALL: I expect on notice, please, supporting documentary evidence to that. Isn't it a fact that the ABC, to date, has never said sorry?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: A clarification statement was made, but, no—</p> <p>Senator SMALL: 'Sorry' is not a clarifying statement; it is an apology.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: There was no strict apology attached to it, no.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: How do you think that it is congruent with the obligations you choose to uphold as a model litigant not to say sorry when you have blatantly defamed an individual?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It was made quite clear to us in writing that an apology was not wanted.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: So, on notice, you are going to provide that to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll talk to my legal team. I would like to provide that to you, yes. It's-</p>	29/11/2021	41
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243	SQ21-001270	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Ben Small	ABC - Engagement of Bird & Bird	<p>Senator SMALL: ... The law firm, I understand, that was representing Ms Milligan, was Bird &amp; Bird. Who engaged Bird &amp; Bird?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you on notice. That happened after the concerns notice, I believe, but it was before I was advised that we were vicariously liable that Bird &amp; Bird were involved. I think they were engaged prior to that.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: So there was a conscious decision by the ABC to continue their engagement?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I believe so. I'll confirm that on notice for you.</p>	29/11/2021	42
244	SQ21-001271	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Number of complaints tabled so far in 2021	<p>CHAIR: That would be very useful. I just have a few questions about the annual report. How many complaints have been tabled so far in 2021?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not sure that we have that information on hand at the moment. You mean complaints in calendar year 2021 so far?</p> <p>CHAIR: The annual reports for the last two years said 5,600 in 2019, and 6,000 in 2020. So I was just wondering how you were tracking?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not sure. We'll have to get back to you on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	45
245	SQ21-001272	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Efforts to sway votes for Senate Inquiry	<p>CHAIR: I'm interested in any efforts the ABC made to frustrate the Senate inquiry. Were any ABC resources deployed to speak to crossbench senators, members of the Labor Party or the opposition during this last week or so about this matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Not that I'm aware of, no. I haven't been involved in anything like that, no.</p> <p>CHAIR: So no phone calls to crossbench senators urging them to vote in a particular way?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If I can answer that on notice-I didn't.</p> <p>CHAIR: You'll take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	45
246	SQ21-001273	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Examples of ABC urging parliamentarians to	<p>CHAIR: Can you think of any other examples in your time at the ABC where the ABC has urged a chamber of parliament to do a particular thing?</p>	29/11/2021	45

				do a particular thing	Mr Anderson: Not offhand. I can take that on notice for you. CHAIR: Take it on notice? Mr Anderson: I think when Mr Spigelman was chair of the ABC I can recall some correspondence that he would send that he was quite concerned about threats to the ABC's independence. But I'll confirm that on notice for you.		
247	SQ21-001274	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Use of recruitment agencies	CHAIR: Did you use Spencer Stuart, Russell Reynolds or Egon Zehnder in the past two or perhaps three years? Ms Kleyn: Spencer Stuart was used to recruit for my role, for me; and, yes, I've used Russell Reynolds for recruitment of our chief people officer more recently. CHAIR: Are you confident that the payments made to those organisations have all been captured in accordance with your obligations? Ms Kleyn: Yes, absolutely. CHAIR: You are confident? Ms Kleyn: Yes. CHAIR: Can you check that? Ms Kleyn: Yes, of course.	29/11/2021	46
248	SQ21-001275	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - External legal costs	CHAIR: Thanks. Finally, I just want to ask you about your external legal: 2019 was \$6.8 million and 2020 was \$7 million. How much have you spent so far this year? Mr Anderson: I'm going to have to get back to you on notice with regard to that. CHAIR: Have you got a sense of it? Do you think it's more? Mr Anderson: It's about what's incurred and what is billed, so year-to-date, I think, we're on external expenses-I'll get back to you on notice. It depends on what we've had paid. I'll need to get back to you.	29/11/2021	46
249	SQ21-001276	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Number of in-house lawyers	Senator HENDERSON: Mr Anderson, you're advertising for a head of business affairs at the ABC, reporting to the head of content business, Georgina Waite. Is this a newly created role? Mr Anderson: The head of business affairs was Georgina Waite.	29/11/2021	46

					<p>Georgina has been elevated into a broader position, and this is backfilling behind her.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And so that means there will be a new in-house lawyer?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The business affairs team is not captured within our legal team. Business affairs sits separate to that. It sits within Entertainment and Specialist.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So how many in-house lawyers in total does that bring to the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you. There are 11 people in business affairs. Not all of them are lawyers. But I will get back to you</p>		
250	SQ21-001277	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Mr Skelton's tweet	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I just want to draw your attention to another tweet that was in response to Mr Tim Wilson MP. Mr Wilson is talking about Labor's retiree tax, and Mr Skelton says, 'So the coalition still believes in giving tax returns to people who don't pay tax? Good to know.' He is obviously making quite an attacking, partial comment about Mr Wilson under circumstances where he runs ABC Fact Check. Is that appropriate?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Mr Skelton is not an ABC employee.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But he's running the ABC branded Fact Check.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I hear you, yes. If you provide that to me, I will look into it. It is something I will need to look at and provide an answer to you a notice with regard to that. What I can say is he's not an employee of the ABC, but, yes, he is heading up RMIT fact check, which does carry the ABC branding with it. And, yes, I would expect that he would abide by not bringing the ABC into disrepute. That would be my expectation.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. If could take that on notice and have a look at that tweet-</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will.</p>	29/11/2021	47

251	SQ21-001278	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Cut to regional Victorian radio services	<p>Senator HENDERSON: ... In the last couple of weeks, the ABC made a decision to cut regional Victorian radio services. I'm not sure whether you've canvassed this earlier in estimates.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We haven't, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: As a Victorian regional senator I was very disappointed by that decision. What's the basis on which that decision was made, and can this be reversed?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can provide you with information on notice—I'll say that upfront—but I will talk to you about it. At the moment, this is with regard to our Mornings programs. We do not have alignment across all of our eight regional bureaus in Victoria with regard to when Mornings is on and when Breakfast is on. This does bring that into alignment. Prior to COVID, there were four bureaus supplying the Mornings program to all eight bureaus. During COVID, more recently, there have been two bureaus providing the Mornings program to all eight. The feedback that we've received is that what it allows people to do in those other bureaus is otherwise go out and file stories that become part of what is more of a statewide program. So this is not a cost-cutting; no-one's losing their job over it. What we're doing is going to one bureau providing all eight—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you're cutting local programming, and local programming in the country is particularly important.</p> <p>CHAIR: Last question.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: But we think we are making this better, in that people are now filing reports and stories that are there for online—so a bigger audience. They're part of more of a statewide Mornings program where people can hear what's going on around the state from people who are still reporting from those regions. So to free them up to be able to go out and do those stories is, we think, better than having what we had previously with them being on air. So they're still there, they're still filing stories, but they're stories that will have greater impact, because they'll travel further,</p>	29/11/2021	47
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					particularly because they're online. But, also, they can file for what is a statewide Mornings program, and in our estimation there are more stories that travel further as a result of that. That's the reasoning behind it. We are trialling it for next year with regard to seeing that happen—going from the two bureaus to the one bureau. From memory—and I might get this wrong; I'll confirm on notice—from Wodonga and Ballarat, I think, broadcasting two into eight, it's going to one broadcast coming from Sale. So it's still coming from a regional bureau in Victoria.		
252	SQ21-001279	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Minister communications with Facebook	<p>Senator PRATT: I do. Minister and Mr Windeyer, on 22 September this year there was an article by Zoe Samios in the Sydney Morning Herald, which reported: 'Facebook snubs SBS, The Conversation on media deals'. The article said: 'Social media giant Facebook has shot down requests to negotiate content deals with multicultural broadcaster SBS'. At estimates in October both the SBS and the department confirmed that this was in fact the case, that it was true. The managing director of SBS confirmed that SBS and Facebook have not even made it yet to the negotiating table. Has the minister yet contacted Facebook or met with Facebook to ask why Facebook refuses to do a deal with SBS?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can you update us in any way, Minister, on this issue?</p> <p>Senator Hume: No. I'll have to take it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	48
253	SQ21-001280	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Meetings between the Department and Facebook	<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. I'll ask the department. Has the department contacted Facebook or met with Facebook?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We've had a number of interactions with Facebook, but I would have to take on notice to confirm when the last time we specifically talked to Facebook on this issue was.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What can you tell us about the department's communications with Facebook on this issue thus far?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I haven't personally had any recent meetings with Facebook. I'd have to take on notice to check what interactions the</p>	29/11/2021	49

					<p>department has had with Facebook on this particular issue. I know there have been a number of interactions with Facebook but they're about a variety of matters. I'm very happy to take it on notice, but I don't have an answer for you here.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Surely this issue is important enough for you to know whether the department has advocated on SBS's behalf in relation to this issue?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think the issue has been raised between us and Facebook, but I just can't give you any more detail off the top of my head here. I'm sorry. Further officials aren't available because the department has—</p>		
254	SQ21-001281	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Andrew Bragg	SBS - Audience feedback	<p>CHAIR: Does the ombudsman make judgements about audience feedback with reference to you; or do those responses go directly back to the individual?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Audience feedback comes in and we have a digital platform, Zendesk, that facilitates that. Audience members can identify feedback as a code complaint-sometimes audience members misidentify, and we will recategorise them as code complaints when we believe they're a legitimate complaint under our code. Those complaints are dealt with by our ombudsman independently. When I say independently, there is no involvement directly from me, and they have the authority to make internally binding findings on content areas.</p> <p>CHAIR: Can I get you to provide some information on notice about how that works at SBS and any views you have on that matter that you think could be of wider usage or broader interest?</p>	29/11/2021	51
255	SQ21-001282	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Removal of Mr Mundine due to breach of SBS social media policy	<p>Senator PRATT: Minister Hume, we have an SBS board member whose tweets have breached the SBS social media policy, and yet Mr Mundine remains on the board. May I ask the government for a reason why he should not be removed from the board for breaching the SBS social media policy?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm not familiar with that tweet, Senator Pratt, so I'll take the question on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	51

					Senator PRATT: I don't necessarily know that you need to be familiar with the tweet. SBS has already said it breaches their social media guidelines. What process have you gone through-		
256	SQ21-001283	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Letter from Ms Rowland concerning highly inappropriate tweet by Mr Mundine	<p>Senator PRATT: On 1 September, Shadow Minister Rowland wrote to Minister Fletcher about a highly inappropriate tweet by Mr Mundine, which you've acknowledged has since been deleted-and I won't repeat it here. Has Mr Fletcher responded to Ms Rowland's letter?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't know. I'll have to take that on notice. I haven't seen that correspondence. I'll take it on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	51
257	SQ21-001284	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	SBS - Diverse Australian stories	<p>Senator PRATT: Congratulations on that. In that context, how do you think our capacity to tell diverse Australian stories is impacted by a series like this both here in Australia and globally, particularly in the APAC region?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: At its core, SBS just wishes to naturally reflect the society it serves. Australia is a diverse society with a whole bunch of different lived experience and cultural backgrounds, and we want that to shine naturally through our content. We also want to make sure we're creating pathways for all communities to tell their stories and see their stories reflected in the cultural output of this country. Of course, by extension, we want our neighbours internationally to see the wonderful pluralistic, multicultural society that Australia is. So, anything we can do to that end we are committed to, and it's why we always vigorously remind any and all governments about the value of SBS and the importance of a well-funded SBS.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Absolutely. What SBS content, if any, does the ABC acquire for ABC international services?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	53
258	SQ21-001285	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	SBS - PacificAus TV initiative	Senator PRATT: Okay, thank you. Are you aware, Mr Taylor, of the PacificAus TV initiative administered by Free TV, and has that initiative acquired any content from SBS or provided SBS content to Pacific broadcasters as yet?	29/11/2021	53

					Mr Taylor: I am aware of the initiative. I am not aware of whether we have been approached to supply content. We would love to, I'm sure. I'll take that on notice.		
259	SQ21-001286	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	SBS - Co-production treaties with global partners	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. Do you use co-production treaties with global partners to make content, and are there any markets where Australia doesn't have a co-production treaty that would be useful for SBS?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will have to take that on notice. Our principal production model is through co-productions. I'll have to come back to you about the technicalities around the treaties.</p>	29/11/2021	53
260	SQ21-001287	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Anti-siphoning list - availability of listed events	<p>Senator GREEN: I'm not interested in what broadcasters have seen as a good opportunity to put something on TV that isn't on the list. I'm more interested in the things that are on the list that haven't then been made available to the general public. Perhaps on notice you could provide a list of those events on the list that haven't been made available to the general public since April, since the rollover.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm happy-</p>	29/11/2021	5
261	SQ21-001288	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Mrs Zoe Daniel employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please confirm the dates that Mrs Zoe Daniel was an employee at the ABC.</li> <li>• Please confirm the different roles and dates those roles (beginning and end) were held by Mrs Zoe Daniel.</li> <li>• During Mrs Zoe Daniel's time in the Washington Bureau were there any complaints of bullying or harassment in the workplace?</li> <li>• During Mrs Zoe Daniel's time in the Washington Bureau did any staff resign because of alleged bullying or harassment in the workplace? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o And if so, did they complete an exit interview outlining their concerns of bullying or harassment?</li> <li>o And if so, were their complaints directed at another employee of the ABC?</li> <li>o And if so, who was that employee?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• During Mrs Zoe Daniel's time in the Washington Bureau were</li> </ul>	6/12/2021	Written

					<p>there any allegations of bullying or harassment in the workplace made against Mrs Zoe Daniel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During Mrs Zoe Daniel's time in the Washington Bureau did any staff resign because of alleged bullying or harassment in the workplace by Mrs Zoe Daniel?</li> <li>o And if so, did they complete an exit interview outlining their concerns of bullying or harassment?</li> </ul>		
262	SQ21-001289	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Government Relations Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many people work in government relations at the ABC and what is the budget for government relations?</li> <li>• Did government relations staff engage with the Senate during November 2021 and, if so, what were the topics?</li> </ul>	6/12/2021	Written
263	SQ21-001290	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Interactions between ABC staff and members of the Senate regarding the Complaints Handling Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What specific interaction occurred between ABC staff and the members of the Senate regarding the Complaints Handling Inquiry? Please include the number of interactions and a brief summary of each interaction.</li> <li>o Of these interactions, how many did the ABC initiate? Which ones?</li> </ul>	6/12/2021	Written
264	SQ21-001291	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints Handling Inquiry statement by ABC Chair in November 2021	Was the statement of the ABC Chair in November 2021 on the complaints handling inquiry circulated to the board before release?	6/12/2021	Written
265	SQ21-001292	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints Handling and Editorial Independence	How does complaints handling relate to editorial independence?	6/12/2021	Written
266	SQ21-001293	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Deloitte report on economic contribution	With reference to the Tweet by ABC Media Communications on 8 December 2021, "Deloitte report finds ABC screen commissions contributed \$744 million to Australia's economy and supported more than 8000 roles over three years, bringing financial, social and cultural benefits to all states and territories @ABCTV @D_AccessEcon" at	8/12/2021	Written

					<p><a href="https://twitter.com/abcmediacomms/status/1468336969302216704?s=24">https://twitter.com/abcmediacomms/status/1468336969302216704?s=24</a></p> <p>1. How much did the ABC spend to commission what is basically a PR exercise?</p> <p>2. How many journalists could the ABC have hired instead of spending money engaging a team of consultants to tell Australians what they already know?</p>		
267	SQ21-001294	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC enhanced news-gathering funding	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Minister, we've had the release today of the parliamentary sitting calendar for next year. Are we expecting an indication of what the ABC's budget will be in MYEFO or in that brought-forward budget day?</p> <p>Senator Hume: We haven't had MYEFO yet, so I imagine that there will be indications either, appropriately, in MYEFO or in the budget, which is now the 29 March date.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And is the government going to include the enhanced news-gathering funding in the overall package, or will that be negotiated separately?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can take that on notice. But, obviously, the amounts that are received under the news media bargaining code are not deducted from government funding, so they will be accounted for separately.</p>	29/11/2021	13
268	SQ21-001295	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Ministerial response to backbench comments on the ABC Chair	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the minister reached out to Ms Buttrose in response to these personal attacks by members of the Liberal Party to ensure that she understands that these comments are not appropriate and are not endorsed by the government?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I would imagine that Ms Buttrose is very clear that they are not views that are endorsed by the minister for communications.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What about other members of your government?</p> <p>Senator Hume: And other members of the government—she would know. She's pretty tough.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But the minister hasn't bothered to pick</p>	29/11/2021	31

					up the phone and say, 'Ms Buttrose— Senator Hume: I couldn't confirm whether the minister for communications speaks to the chair of the ABC on a regular basis or after any particular comment, but I can take that on notice.		
269	SQ21-001296	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - model litigant	<p>Senator ABETZ: For a while I nearly thought it might be myself or a few others that the ABC behaved like this. But it looks as though there's nearly a culture with the ABC of not being a model litigant and not apologising for its behaviour, even in legal proceedings. We have an independent judicial officer in Justice Stevenson saying it's not how any party, let alone a model litigant such as the ABC, should conduct itself. Were you aware of the case?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I was.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So what's being done about that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: With regard to how the judgement was perceived that we've conducted ourselves?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Not perceived; how it was ruled that you had conducted yourselves. Language is very important yet again, Mr Anderson. This is a judgement of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. This is a judgement of the court which, as I understand it, has not been appealed by the ABC, which therefore suggests you have accepted it.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, I accept the judgement and I can give you a response on notice. I think it related to the provision of documents from memory. However, I'll reacquaint myself with that and provide you an answer on notice.</p>	29/11/2021	25
270	SQ21-001297	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC defamation case - apology	<p>Senator ABETZ: Coming back to Milligan, an apology was not offered, was it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When people want an apology, they usually express it word for word and it comes with something else. My understanding is that initially we could not agree to the apology as it was. Also—and, again, I'll confirm on notice—it is my memory that the concerns notice was defective in that it asked for the</p>	29/11/2021	25

					deletion of tweets but it was not specific about which tweets it wanted deleted by Ms Milligan.		
271	SQ21-001298	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC control of defamation case	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but then when you were seized of the matter—this comes back to the point: in your role as managing director, didn't you say, 'We will only indemnify on the basis that we take full control and we try to minimise our costs and damages as quickly as possible'?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I gave evidence to say that we would, as much as possible, take control of that case. Whether—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: What do you mean by 'as much as possible'? You either seized the matter and said to Ms Milligan, 'We will indemnify you on the basis that we take control' or you said, 'We'll indemnify you, and you've got an open chequebook.' Which was it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Well, I did advise my general counsel that, if we were to indemnify, obviously we needed to bring this to a conclusion as fast as possible. I know—and I'm just being open and honest with you—that it was not as simple as taking over the entire case. I know that was not possible. I will come back to you on notice with what was possible. If you want to know what the terms were, I'll give you a response on notice with regard to that, because I did not write that.</p>	29/11/2021	32
272	SQ21-001299	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC offer to settle defamation case	<p>Senator ABETZ: Was any offer made to Dr Laming that, apart from the one that may have involved Mr Porter's case—</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Was any offer made to Dr Laming? I seem to recall—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Look, you would agree with me that, of the one, two, three, four, five tweets on the first page, none of them refer to Mr Porter's case.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I know there were offers made to settle the matter for a lower amount of money, which included deleting the tweets and a statement being made. As to, specifically, 'Did it involve any specific tweets or all of them,' I can't answer that right now. I can</p>	29/11/2021	33-34

					give it to you on notice. But I know that we did attempt to make an offer to settle the matter before we got to where we got to.		
273	SQ21-001300	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Ben Small	ABC access to discounted legal fees as a model litigant	Senator SMALL: I understand that, as a significant entity, the ABC should have access to discounted rates. It would be good to understand, on notice, whether or not the ABC sought the discounted rates that are available to the Crown as a model litigant? Mr Anderson: I'll provide that on notice.	29/11/2021	42
274	SQ21-001301	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Ben Small	Disclosure of ABC involvement in defamation case to Dr Laming	Senator SMALL: Was it ever disclosed to Mr Laming that the ABC had involved itself in the proceedings? Mr Anderson: That's a question I also had from Senator Abetz earlier today, which I will provide on notice to you	29/11/2021	42
275	SQ21-001302	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	Differences between ABC and ACMA complaints systems	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: There have been a number of questions and debate about the complaints handling system. Notwithstanding the fact that you're going through an independent process, it would be helpful for us as a Senate committee to understand the differences between your complaints process, as it is, and the process that you go through in relation to commercial media, through ACMA. As I said, the evidence we've had so far from ACMA is that it's left up to the media company. So I'm wondering if, on notice, you could provide a brief to us on the differences between the ABC complaints system, from an editorial perspective, and that under ACMA. Thank you	29/11/2021	44
276	SQ21-001303	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Regional newspaper coverage	Senator PRATT: How did you assess need as far as enabling local communities to have ongoing coverage, in the case of those grants? Mr Windeyer: There were a variety of criteria associated with the program. I don't have in front of me what those were. We can happily provide those to you on notice. The guidelines would still be publicly available, but we can provide that on notice.	29/11/2021	61
277	SQ21-001304	Department of Infrastructure,	Louise Pratt	Newspaper grants	Senator PRATT: When you say this is a new space, newspaper grants were first announced by the government back in 2017. Why	29/11/2021	62

		Transport, Regional Development and Communications			are we still saying that this is a new space, instead of acting on ACMA's recommendations and suggestions? Mr Windeyer: I thought that was more recent. I would have to double-check that. But as I say, in any event, that Public Interest News Gathering program was application driven.		
278	SQ21-001305	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC control of defamation case - terms	Senator ABETZ: Yes, but in relation to the indemnity—I'm not talking about anything else—what were the terms and conditions of it? Why didn't you seize it, as managing director, and say, 'There's one condition on us or the taxpayer indemnifying you, and that is that we take control the matter'? Mr Anderson: I took advice from my general counsel with regard to trying to grab hold of this matter from that moment as much as possible. I left it to my general counsel, who'd provided me the advice to go and do that. I will provide you an answer on notice.	29/11/2021	33
279	SQ21-001306	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Andrew Bragg	ACMA - ABC complaints	1. Is the ACMA aware of the ABC dismissing any complaints under its process in the last three months? 2. Have any complaints dismissed by the ABC been escalated to the ACMA? - If so, please produce those complaints.	29/11/2021	Written