



25 October 2023

Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications Committee
Department of Senate
Parliament House.
Canberra. ACT. 2600

Dear Stephen

The ABC wishes to clarify information provided at Senate Estimates on Tuesday 24 October in relation to questions asked by Senator Hughes about staff attendance and costs associated with the Garma Festival in 2022 and 2023.

Travel costs for Garma in 2023 were approximately \$150,000, as stated in the Committee hearing. We would like to clarify that the number of staff who attended was 44 rather than 37 when staff from the Content division are included in the total, as well as the News division.

In 2022, 38 people from across the ABC attended the festival. The travel costs were approximately \$185,000 but this figure included \$77,000 in cancellation fees from 2021 when the Garma festival was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Therefore, in summary, excluding cancellation costs, travel costs were \$108,000 for 38 people in 2022 and \$150,000 for 44 people in 2023.

I hope that this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely