

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 44

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

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Topic: The Killing Fields Documentary

Senator McGrath, James asked:

Senator McGRATH: Take it on notice. How much is the ABC spending on the documentary series it is making with Sarah Ferguson on the Rudd and Gillard governments? I think it is screening shortly, isn't it?

Mr Scott: It is.

Senator McGRATH: You might want to do a plug for it while you are answering.

Mr Scott: It is, by all accounts, riveting and I am sure it will be required viewing here.

Senator McGRATH: I am disappointed that Senator Dastyari—he might have a role in it. Is it called 'The Killing Fields'?

Mr Scott: It is called 'The Killing Fields'.

Senator DASTYARI: Yes, I believe—

Senator Fifield: There is no show without punch.

Senator DASTYARI: Can I ask a question as well about that?

Mr Scott: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator McGRATH: Also, how many ABC staff were employed on that project?

Mr Scott: Yes...

Answer:

ABC documentary *The Killing Season*, which aired over three weeks in June 2015, reached three million metro and regional viewers across the series and was the second top ABC TV program this year, behind coverage of the AFC Asian Cup.

The ABC spent a total of \$1.3 million to produce *The Killing Season*. Some additional resources were provided through other ABC program areas.

For the course of the production period the program employed five full-time staff: two researchers, a reporter/writer, a series producer and a producer.

The executive producer performed her duties part-time in addition to her role at *Four Corners*.

A camera operator, sound recordist and two editors worked on the program for limited periods of time.

Other ABC staff performed specific functions as required such as designing graphics, conducting archive research, arranging publicity and producing digital content.