

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: 53

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 27/5/2015

Topic: Staffing

Senator McGrath, James asked:

1. How many media managers does the ABC currently employ?
2. Have any media managers been made redundant since December 2014?
3. How many consultants does the ABC currently engage?
 - a. How does this compare to the past couple of financial years?
4. Have any consultants' contracts been terminated since December 2014?
5. Why does the ABC use two news presenters for much of the news day?
6. What proportion of the ABC's total staff are trained journalists?

Answer:

1. The ABC refers to its answer to Question on Notice 42 from the 2015 Budget Estimates Hearings.
2. No media managers have been made redundant since December 2014.
3. As at 30 April 2015, the ABC had engaged with 77 consultants during the 2014/15 financial year.
 - a) During the year ended 30 June 2014, the ABC had engaged with a total of 96 consultants while the equivalent number for the year ended 30 June 2013, was 88.
4. From December 2014 – 30 April 2015, no consultants' contracts have been terminated.
5. Most news bulletins on both ABCTV and News 24 have one presenter. The exceptions are News Breakfast, Weekend Breakfast and Afternoons on News 24. These programs are longer and have a more relaxed format than regular news bulletins. This allows for a varied combination of rolling news, interviews and exchange between the presenters.
6. The ABC uses a range of classifications for positions that could broadly be grouped together as journalists. Additionally, since specific formal qualifications are not a prerequisite to a career in journalism, it is difficult to determine the number of traditionally 'trained journalists' employed by the ABC. While not necessarily exhaustive, that broad grouping includes: content editors, digital producers, reporter/producers and other editors and producers in the News Division, as well as journalist/reporters, content editors and executive producers in other divisions. Using this grouping, the number of 'journalists' at the ABC is as follows:

	TOTAL HEADCOUNT	FTE
Journalists	983	881.9
Total Staff	4353	3936
Journalists as a % of total staff	22.58%	22.41%