

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 5

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

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Topic: Fact Check – Politicians Complaints

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Senator XENOPHON: I am running out of time, so, on notice, can you advise how many politicians— without necessarily naming the politicians—state and federal, have complained about Fact Check to the ABC? Presumably there would have been the call to the former managing director, calls that you know have to be taken—

Mr Millett: Some of them are formal; some of them are informal. But, yes, I can do my best to take that on notice.

Senator XENOPHON: Include formal and informal complaints to get an idea of how many politicians have complained about Fact Check in that time. I also want to ask you: given that Fact Check is \$1 million out of the \$200 million news budget, has Fact Check been brought up at any stage in any negotiations with the government for the extra triennial funding that the government has committed to the ABC?

Answer:

The ABC has received two complaints from politicians about stories produced by ABC *Fact Check*. The first was received on 6 June 2014 and the second on 17 July 2015.

The Government did not raise *Fact Check* with the ABC in negotiations over its 2016-19 triennial funding.