

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates May 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 116**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 129-130, 24/05/2017**

**Topic: ABC staff earnings**

**Senator Roberts, Malcolm asked:**

**Senator ROBERTS:** My salary is disclosed, as is everyone's in this room, and I believe that all taxpayers should be entitled to see all public servants' salaries. Could you please take on notice that I would like to know the salary and titles of all ABC staff earning more than \$250,000.

**Ms Guthrie:** We will take that on notice.

**Senator ROBERTS:** I would like to know the salaries of all journalists and program presenters earning more than \$200,000 a year together with the average time they spend on air each week.

**Ms Guthrie:** Again, we will take that on notice.

**Senator ROBERTS:** Thank you. Could you also please provide the increase in salary for the managing director's position over the last 10 years.

**Ms Guthrie:** Again, we will take that on notice.

**Senator ROBERTS:** Could you also tell me how many investigative journalists the ABC employs, and how much they are paid.

**Ms Guthrie:** Are there particular programs that you are interested in?

**Senator ROBERTS:** I would just like to know how many investigative journalists the ABC has.

**Ms Guthrie:** I am not sure that we can make a distinction between investigative journalists and other journalists but, again, we will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The remuneration information of ABC staff is personal information under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Responses to requests for such information must comply with the Corporation's responsibilities under the *Privacy Act* and must not disclose any individual's personal information.

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1. No. of ABC employees earning more than \$250,000 annual salary

	No.
\$250,001 to \$300,000	9
\$300,001 to \$350,000	12
\$350,001 to \$450,000	11
\$850,001 to 900,000	1
Total number of employees	33

2. (a) Salaries of all journalists and program presenters earning more than \$200,000 a year

	No.
\$200,001 to \$250,000	5
\$250,001 to \$300,000	5
\$300,001 to \$400,000	6
Total number of journalists/presenters	16

(b) The primary functions of these roles are in an off-air capacity, requiring the employees to undertake research, interviews, analysis and investigative and other journalistic work. Separate and in addition to these responsibilities, it is estimated that each individual spends an average of eight hours each week on air.

3. The increase in salary for the managing director's position over the last 10 years.

The independent Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the range limits for the remuneration of the ABC Managing Director. In the 10-year period since July 2007, the Total Employment Benefit (as defined by the Remuneration Tribunal) for the ABC managing director has increased by 50 per cent.

4. How many investigative journalists the ABC employs, and how much they are paid.

The ABC does not identify investigative journalists as a specific job group. However approximately 140 employees are engaged in delivering investigative journalism as the primary part of their role. The average annual salary of these employees is \$131,360.