

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: 135

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 7/6/2017

Topic: Withholding Remuneration from Public - Presenters

Senator Hanson, Pauline asked:

It has been argued, at Additional Senate Estimates, the ABC should not make the remuneration packages of its most highly paid presenters public on the basis that the ABC competes for staff with other television channels. The ABC however is funded by taxpayers and is accountable to the shareholder Ministers and the Parliament.

- (a) What is the legal basis of withholding remuneration information from any one of the 78 Senators who making the final decisions on the funding of the ABC?
- (b) What is the remuneration package for the MD of the ABC?
- (c) Please provide the name and remuneration package of the top twenty on air presenters employed or contracted by the ABC or related companies?

Answer:

- (a) The remuneration information of ABC staff amounts to personal information under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Responses to requests for information regarding ABC staff remuneration are presented in the following way to ensure that the Corporation complies with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and that any individual's personal information is not disclosed.
- (b) See response to Question on Notice 131.
- (c) The 20 highest paid ABC on-air presenters are listed below by salary band:

| Remuneration package | No. |
|------------------------|-----|
| \$225,001 to \$300,000 | 9 |
| \$300,001 to \$375,000 | 6 |
| \$375,001 to \$450,000 | 5 |
| Total | 20 |