

**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: 363**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 14/07/2017**

**Topic: ABC Staff Earnings (supplementary)**

**Senator McKenzie, Bridget asked:**

- (a) Of the 32 employees (excluding the Chair) earning more than \$250,000 per annum, please advise the Committee how many of these personnel are permanently based outside capital city areas, i.e. their regular place of permanent employment is located in rural or regional Australia.
- (b) Please advise the committee, in relation to the “16 journalists and program presenters” earning between \$200,000 and \$400,000 per annum, how many of these personnel are similarly based permanently in rural or regional Australia.
- (c) Of the ‘approximately 140 employees who deliver quality investigative journalism’ at the ABC, please specify a) how many of these employees work out of capital city workplaces (including mobile correspondents and others headquartered in a capital city) and how many are permanently based in rural and regional Australia.
- (d) Given the average remuneration cited for the cohort of 140 journalists of \$131,360 per annum, please further advise the committee the average remuneration for both city-based and rural/regionally based investigative journalists as per the description of their permanent location.

**Answer:**

- (a) 1 employee is based in rural or regional Australia and 31 are based in capital city locations.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 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 on programs such as *Four Corners*, *AM*, *PM*, *Lateline*, *7.30*, *Background Briefing* and *Foreign Correspondent*. While all of these employees are based in capital cities, the ABC’s Regional content makers (whether reporters or program makers) do work together to investigate issues of interest to local and national audiences. At various times, ABC Regional team members also support investigative journalists from ABC News, for example on stories for programs like ABC’s *Four Corners*.
- (d) As noted above, the ABC does not identify investigative journalists as a specific job group, however, the average salary for this identified cohort is \$131,360.