

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2015
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 151

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 8, 30/11/2015

Topic: Availability of engineers - Adelaide

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Senator XENOPHON: I am told that as a result of the retirement of Julie Howe, the presenter in Adelaide, the position was transferred to Melbourne, and there was only just one engineer in Adelaide. If that engineer is not available, what happens? Do you fly them in from other states?

Mr Scott: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator XENOPHON: I think that raises an issue that there is no spare capacity.

Mr Scott: Let me take that on notice, and I will explain to you how we do that.

CHAIR: Thank you.

Answer:

The Adelaide ABC Classic FM presenter who retired in October 2015 (Julia Lester) presented the weekday Classic Drive program. Classic FM has engaged Christopher Lawrence to present this program in 2016. Mr Lawrence is based in Hobart.

ABC Classic FM retains three other staff presenters in Adelaide: Simon Healy and Julie Howard, who between them produce and present the *Evenings* program from Sunday to Friday; and Stephen Watkins, who broadcasts the sacred music program *For The God Who Sings* on Sunday night.

ABC Classic FM has one engineer and one music producer on staff in Adelaide. If the staff Music Producer or the staff Sound Engineer were to be absent for any reason, we are able to engage a freelance producer or engineer locally, i.e. in Adelaide, not from interstate.