

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

Question No: 106

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 70, 18/10/2016

Topic: The Forgotten Children – filmed and obtained

Senator Hume, Jane asked:

Senator HUME: Both Amnesty International and Save the Children are campaigning and activist entities and, given that, what does the ABC know about how this material was filmed and obtained; in other words, how could you ensure and check accuracy?

Mr Sunderland: I can take that on notice and provide some more detailed information. All I can say to you today is that the program team satisfied themselves that the material was shot in an appropriate manner, that the people that they interviewed were who they said they were and were responding to issues that we wanted and asked them to respond to.

Answer:

The footage was not supplied by either Amnesty International or Save the Children. The majority of the footage was filmed specifically for the program.

The key interviews conducted with the children on the island were conducted remotely by the program's journalists through the use of a freelance camera operator hired by the program.

Teachers were present during the interviews in the interests of the children's welfare, but the questions and topics covered in the program were independently chosen, devised and asked by the ABC journalists. This method was used because of the program's inability to conduct filming in Nauru.

Other visual material used in the program was obtained through a range of sources and *Four Corners* took active steps to satisfy themselves of the accuracy and relevance of the material.