

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: 108

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 72, 18/10/2016

Topic: Video footage of new school facilities

Senator Hume, Jane asked:

Senator HUME: So substantially the program contained claims of a lack of educational opportunities for refugee and transferee youth and it sought to show educational facilities in a poor light. Do you think, in the interests of balance, it could and should have reported and used video of the new school facilities opened on Nauru in recent weeks?

Mr Sunderland: What I would say is that that program last night told the stories of a number of individuals. That is the important part of that story. It told the story, the direct real-life experiences, of a particular group of people.

Senator HUME: So my understanding is you were made aware of the video of the new school facilities and it was offered to the program but it was not used.

Mr Sunderland: I am not aware of whether it was offered or not. I am also unaware of the extent to which it was relevant if what we are doing is telling the precise stories of those individuals, but I would have to take that level of detail on notice.

Answer:

The *Four Corners* program spoke to children who had spent several years on Nauru and elsewhere, and the vision used accurately depicted the conditions they experienced. The new school and the new sections of the hospital were not relevant to this aspect of the story.