

**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: 114**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 91, 18/10/2016**

**Topic: Australian Programming – created or repeated**

**Senator XENOPHON:** I cannot take it any further. Could you please take on notice how much Australian programming could have been created or repeated, including documentaries, if the ABC had invested in Australian rather than, for instance, British content over the last five to 10 years? Well, say in the last five years, how much has been spent acquiring programs coming out of other countries including, in particular, the UK? I have nothing against the UK but it seems to be where most of the programming comes from. Can you please take that on notice?

**Mr Pendleton:** Yes, we will take it on notice.

**Ms Guthrie:** Yes.

**Senator XENOPHON:** Has the deal struck between the BBC and Foxtel in 2013 resulted in higher costs for the ABC? What has been the cost of that deal? If you could take that on notice.

**Ms Guthrie:** Yes.

**Mr Millett:** Yes.

**Mr Sunderland:** We will do so.

**Senator XENOPHON:** Mr Pendleton, you can take that on notice.

**Mr Pendleton:** Yes, I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The ABC is committed to the continued investment and production of high quality programs in Australia and is spending less each year on acquired content from overseas. However, some free-to-air first run content is acquired from overseas to enhance the schedule and contribute to a more diverse mix of programming.

This acquired content delivers programming for a comparatively lower cost per hour than the production of content in Australia. ABC's commissioned Australian content costs, on average, more than 12 times the cost to acquire content overseas. For drama, that cost multiple can extend as far as 40 times.

For the last five financial years, the ABC spent the following on international acquisitions:

<b>FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>SPEND</b>	<b>Total TV HRS</b>
2015/16	\$31,308,193	2633
2014/15	\$32,079,290	2467
2013/14	\$32,800,930	2146
2012/13	\$35,159,763	2412
2011/12	\$34,186,460	3047
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,534,636</b>	<b>12705</b>

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\$141 million of this content came from the United Kingdom.

Following the deal between BBC and Foxtel, the ABC now acquires content from the BBC for a lower cost for the second window after 12 months, following the Foxtel broadcast.