

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group:

Program: 2.1

Question: BE14/020

Senator Edwards asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Senator EDWARDS: You may have to take this question on notice. Have you ever quantified the value of those production and location offsets that the Australian taxpayer affords this industry?

Senator Brandis: They are quantified. The cost to revenue of all tax concessions and support through the tax system is quantified, I believe, in an annual statement published by Treasury called the Tax expenditures statement. Because I had not anticipated that the line of questions to Screen Australia would be quite so foolish as to disregard the importance of the offset, I actually do not have that here, but I will take that question on notice.

CHAIR: Thanks, Minister -

Senator Brandis: -That is the aggregate since I introduced this program in 2007, so it is the aggregate over 6½ years. I do not have the annualised figures, but you will see that, in the years since I introduced that program, support for the industry through the tax system has been something of the order of a billion dollars. I am taking a stab at this. I will get you the actual figures on an annualised basis -

Senator Brandis: Can I apologise, Mr Chairman, for interrupting you, but I have been handed the information Senator Edwards was seeking. May I read it into the record?

CHAIR: Yes.

Senator Brandis: This is as at 31 December 2013, so we are talking about calendar 13. For the producer offset, certificates representing \$896.5 million were issued. Under the location offset, certificates representing \$96.6 million were issued. And, under the post-digital and visual effects offset, certificates totalling \$18.6 million were issued. That is a cost to the revenue. That is the aggregate since I introduced this program in 2007, so it is the aggregate over 6½ years. I do not have the annualised figures, but you will see that, in the years since I introduced that program, support for the industry through the tax system has been something of the order of a billion dollars. I am taking a stab at this. I will get you the actual figures on an annualised basis. But it is about \$150 million a year and that has been completely disregarded in the questioning from the opposition and the Greens.

Senator EDWARDS: The wine industry would be very envious.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The amount of the offset for productions certified for the Producer Offset, Location Offset and Post, Digital and Visual Effects Offset on an annualised basis, since the program commenced, is set out in the table below. The information for 2013-14 is for period 1 July 2013 to 26 May 2014.

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
\$14.6m	\$138.75m	\$126.23m	\$151.37m	\$214.13m	\$232.62m	\$226.34m	\$1104.04m