

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 62**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 70 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Marriage Feature QoN 139 – October 2011 Estimates**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** I take you to question on notice No. 139 from the last estimates. Mr Scott took on notice two aspects of my questioning about the ABC's treatment of the debate on marriage. I specifically asked whether it was appropriate for the host to be seen at times laughing while the sole voice for the dictionary definition of marriage was trying to make his case. I note this was studiously avoided in the answer that I was provided, but time does not allow us to pursue this. Once again, there was a complete obfuscation of the issue. I also asked why, on 13 August, when there were 10 or 12 people demonstrating in favour of same-sex marriage, that became a news item. But when 1,000 people were crammed into the Great Hall three days later in support of the traditional definition of marriage, that did not make the news. That is what I asked and it is on the *Hansard*. I have been given, I might say a quite offensive answer:

The ABC does not consider the reference to same-sex marriage in an ABC news bulletin raises an issue of balance.

Where on earth, in anything that I said in the Senate hearing, did I suggest that you should not be broadcasting the demonstration in relation to same-sex marriage? What I was clearly doing and setting out was that a demonstration of 10 people makes the evening news, whereas a demonstration of 100 times that number is airbrushed out of the news as though it is not worthy of reporting. That is the balance to which I was referring. Please take it on notice again, Mr Scott, and provide us with an answer.

**Mr Scott:** I will.

**Answer:**

Whilst it is not clear which 7pm news bulletin the Senator is referring to, the ABC has reviewed the New South Wales, Canberra and National 7pm bulletins and has made inquiries to other States. Crews were assigned to both stories (the demonstrations in favour of, and against, same sex marriage) and short items were prepared and available for broadcast.

The ABC's records indicated that the story filed on 13 August 2011 in relation to a demonstration in support of same sex marriage was not run in Sydney, Canberra or in any other States. However, further checks could be made if the particular news bulletin (ie, which State or Territory) was identified.

On 16 August 2011, the ABC news in Sydney and Canberra carried coverage of the conference held at Parliament House opposing same sex marriage. However, this coverage was not carried in other States.

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**Question No: 63**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 70 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Editorial Standards**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** We will keep our fingers crossed for a proper answer. I now go to the events on the *Drum* on Wednesday 11 January 2012. The panel discussed the controversial neo-Nazi music festival, Hammered, due to be held in Queensland in April and the editor of the *Drum* said 'we shouldn't trivialise this, folks, it's nasty'. Ms Chikarovski made some comment and then we had Mr Green saying, 'I was hoping it would just be another day on the Gold Coast and everyone would think it was an LNP fundraiser.' It shows your immaturity, Senator Conroy, that you should laugh at this.

**Senator Conroy:** I am laughing at you taking yourself so seriously as usual, Senator Abetz.

**Senator ABETZ:** Are these the sorts of editorial standards that the ABC accepts?

**Mr Scott:** It is the first time it has been drawn to my attention. I would have to look at it.

**Senator Conroy:** As we established before, Mr Scott, Senator Abetz has no sense of humour.

**Mr Scott:** I would have to take it on notice. I am not aware of that issue.

**Senator ABETZ:** If you could see what action if any was taken in relation to that—if nobody knew about it at the time, you do now—and whether or not action will be taken. It is offensive and, for some reason, as we have spoken about at these estimates from time to time, we never really get a jibe of 'I wonder if that was an Australian Greens fundraiser' or something of that nature. It is always to the conservative side.

**Answer:**

The ABC has reviewed the section of *The Drum* described, and believes there has been no breach of editorial standards.

The comments referred to were part of a broader discussion of the music festival, where all those participating in the discussion made clear their views opposing the ideas behind the festival, but also argued against banning it. In particular, the discussion turned to the extra attention the festival was attracting because of moves to ban it. It was in that context that Mr Green made his comment, which was an attempt at humour. The reaction of fellow panellists suggests the comment was not perceived as a serious contribution.

The ABC has not received any formal complaints about the matter.

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**Question No: 64**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 70 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Cost of website**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** In talking about ongoing bias in relation to marriage and the LNP, let us switch to coal seam gas. What was the cost of this website that the ABC set up?

**Mr Scott:** I do not have the detail on that.

**Answer:**

The Coal Seam Gas: By the Numbers website cost \$111,580.

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**Question No: 65**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 71 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Website Corrections**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** But the ABC still asserts that the site was launched checking calculations and facts. So with whom were these matters checked? The assertion is made they were checked. I want to know with whom they were checked.

**Mr Scott:** A lot of the checking is the usual journalistic process. I have tried to explain, because the context is important, that nearly all the information on this website is information that has come from other sources that are on the record and we are bringing it together.

**Senator ABETZ:** With whom was it checked and by whom? Could you please take that on notice rather than trying to contextualise everything. It is a very specific question. With whom and by whom were these matters checked? If they had checked with the authorities on the matter, they clearly would not have made—

**Mr Scott:** And who are the authorities?

**Senator ABETZ:** If we want to change places I am more than happy to. I would not mind earning your income, Mr Scott.

**CHAIR:** Mr Scott, if there is any doubt, I will ask you to look at the authorities as well.

**Senator ABETZ:** Can I ask how many hits did the site have prior to those corrections being made?

**Mr Scott:** I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Coal Seam Gas (CSG) data journalism project extracted information from existing public data and presented it on the CSG website including visual representations of the data and interactive maps.

The project sourced information from hundreds of documents including environmental impact studies (EIS) commissioned by mining companies at the request of governments.

They checked information with officers from:

- the Queensland Government Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
- the NSW Department of Primary Industries
- the South Australian Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy
- the West Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum; and
- the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

These departments were responsible for the published mines and leases geo-data. The team also checked with officers and spokespeople from the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management.

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Checking of information took place before the publication of the website.

Further primary source documents were used for the CSG data journalism project as listed on the website. As also explained on the site, where further input and verification was needed the journalists consulted with industry experts to check modelling assumptions, calculations and facts and other independent scientists were also consulted on a background basis.

Between the launch date of 25 November 2011 and when corrections were first posted on 28 November 2011, the CSG site attracted 97,095 visits.

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**Question No: 66**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 76 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: ABC's Marketing Budget**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

**Senator BIRMINGHAM:** I am sure you were thrilled! With regard to the ABC's marketing budget, how much is paid to other media for advertising in other media?

**Mr Scott:** I will take that on notice. I can tell you that it is dramatically less than any other media organisation in the country.

**Answer:**

The ABC has spent a total of \$2.8 million for the 2011-12 financial year to the end of February for all advertising and promotions.

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**Question No: 67**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 77 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Regional Radio**

**Senator MacDonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** I spend, as you know, a lot of time in Townsville. I used to hear the early morning local news, the 12.30 bulletin and the 5.30 bulletin. I have not been hearing the 5.30 bulletin recently. Has that been cancelled?

**Mr Scott:** I would have to check on that. I am not aware of it. Let me check on that.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** If it has been, which my listening suggests that it has, there would be a reason for that—which I would suspect might be reduced staff in Townsville, and, if there is reduced staff in Townsville, is there reduced staff in radio throughout Queensland and, indeed, Australia?

**Mr Scott:** Let me take that on notice. Not to my knowledge; I am not aware of curtailment of those services. I will take that on notice and come back to you.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** If it turns out, as is my understanding, that there is a cutback in regional radio, could I get in your written answer a more fulsome explanation? Suggestions have been made to me around the traps that the ABC has had to redirect its resources because of ABC 24, and I would be very concerned if ABC 24 is being operated at the expense of regional radio, which, as you know, is a fabulously useful community asset.

**Mr Scott:** Regional radio is very important to us, and I would argue that, in this era of media convergence and consolidation, the ABC's commitment to regional and rural Australia is more important than ever. We have budgetary pressures in news—it has ever been thus. News is expensive to run, and in particular the kinds of stories we have had to cover in recent years have created a burden, but we are managing our way through that. I am certainly not aware of the stripping away of regional resources to bring to the centre. But I will report back to you on that.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** News is sometimes expensive, but radio news in regional Australia I would suggest is probably the least expensive, because you do not have a big operation. Just on that and in closing—

**Mr Scott:** We have 51 local radio stations outside, and so, when you add up our commitment to having local news teams on the ground there, that is a very significant investment. And we have 70 rural reporters in our rural radio division, so it is—

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Absolutely, I agree with that and all congratulations, as I always say. I am concerned that this is not an indication of the downgrading. I hope that is not right.

**Mr Scott:** I will come back to you on that.

**Answer:**

There has been no planned reduction in news staff in regional offices and there has been no diversion of funding to ABC News 24. The Townsville bureau has for many years had four journalists assigned. There have been no changes to this staffing level and there are no plans to reduce staff numbers.

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However, one full-time staff member has recently returned to work on a part-time basis after maternity leave. The ABC is seeking to engage casual staff to cover the short-fall in hours. In addition, one staff member has recently resigned (mid-February) and the ABC is conducting a recruitment process to fill this vacancy.

Until these recruitment processes have finalised, the afternoon bulletin is being networked instead of being produced locally. The ABC anticipates that local bulletins will have resumed by the end of March.



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**Question No: 68**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 78 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: *Insiders* – Panel Members**

**Senator Bernardi asked:**

**Senator BERNARDI:** In accordance with that, then, do you choose the panel of guests who make comment—

**Senator Conroy:** No, they ring me first.

**Senator BERNARDI:** with that in mind? Do you categorise them according to whether you believe they are left or right?

**Mr Scott:** No, I think when we had someone like Andrew Bolt there was not always a lot of surprise on the view and perspectives that he would bring. There are other journalists who bring different perspectives. I think if you look at those panels—week in, week out over time—you get a range of views and perspectives. That is one of the reasons I think it is a very successful program. I think Barrie Cassidy has great credibility in fronting that program. That is why it has been so successful—the range of views and the range of voices, and that continues.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Would you be able to provide me, then, with a list of the people who have appeared and the number of times they have appeared over the last couple of years?

**Mr Scott:** We can look back and see what we have.

**Answer:**

In selecting panellists for *Insiders*, the ABC looks for professional journalists and/or commentators who are engaged in reporting and analysing politics. The focus is on the qualifications and experience of panel members, rather than selecting representatives of particular political perspectives. The range of opinions held by panel members is taken into account to ensure a lively and balanced mix of views across a range of media outlets. However, the views of panel members are often complex and difficult to classify and it is rare if a panel member consistently takes a view in favour or against a particular side of politics.

The number of times a panellist appears on *Insiders* is affected by a wide range of factors, including their availability (to be in Melbourne on a Sunday morning) and their skills in contributing to a television panel.

The ABC has reviewed the program archive from 2010 to the present as regards the appearance of panellists on *Insiders*:

Lenore Taylor	26
Malcolm Farr	19
Gerard Henderson	16
David Marr	16
Denis Atkins	15
Andrew Bolt	15
George Megalogenis	15

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Brian Toohy	15
Mischa Schubert	14
Annabel Crabb	13
Phil Coorey	12
Fran Kelly	12
Karen Middleton	12
Kerry Ann Walsh	12
Laura Tingle	11
Niki Savva	11
Piers Akerman	10
Michael Stutchbury	9
Glenn Milne	8
Mark Kenny	4
Chris Kenny	3
Chris Uhlmann	2
Adam Boulton	1
Sam Coates	1
Kevin Maguire	1

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**Question No: 69**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Pages 80-81 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: *Media Watch***

**Senator Bernardi asked:**

**Senator BERNARDI:** I would like to go to the issue of *Media Watch*. It is a show that many of us enjoy and watch—you will have to take this on notice: I would like to know the stories about other media outlets and the number of stories that have taken place about particular media outlets. It has been put to me that there seems to be an inordinate focus on particular news outlets or radio stations.

**Mr Scott:** When I watched it last night, the first three items were having a go at the ABC.

**Senator BERNARDI:** You might feature prominently.

**Mr Scott:** I suspect we would.

**Senator Conroy:** I have to ask: have you ever been featured on *Media Watch*, Senator Bernardi? We just need to establish whether there is any bias involved in your questions.

**CHAIR:** Senator Bernardi, you have got a couple of minutes left.

**Senator BERNARDI:** I have still got questions. If Senator Conroy did not continue to interrupt—

**CHAIR:** You have got a couple of minutes then we are moving on.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Would you be able to take that on notice.

**Mr Scott:** We might be able to take a sample of programs and give you a sense of the mix of issues that are taken up by *Media Watch*.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Maybe the last 30 or so programs.

**Mr Scott:** We can do that. It is all up on the website, if you want to look at previous programs.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Is it?

**Mr Scott:** Yes.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Yes, but I do not want to trawl through 30 programs myself.

**Mr Scott:** I am just letting you know that it is there.

**Answer:**

<b>Episode</b>	<b>Media outlets featured</b>
<b>2011</b>	
10	7 News, ABC Australian Story, Fairfax, New Idea
11	Fairfax
12	Zoo Weekly, ABC, 2GB, Daily Telegraph
13	Sunday Telegraph, Sun Herald, The Australian, Manly Daily, 9 News, ABC, SBS
14	Today Tonight, Reuters, ABC, SBS News, Daily Telegraph
15	2GB, Canberra Times
16	9 News, 2GB, Today, Fox Sports
17	2UE, The Voice, Today
18	Townsville Bulletin, Woman's Day, A Current Affair
19	Australian Financial Review, Today Tonight, The Australian, Hungry Beast,

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	ABC News, SBS News, 7PM Project
20	Northern Star, Blacktown Advocate, Townsville Bulletin, Gold Coast Bulletin, Port Macquarie News, Toowoomba Chronicle, Southern Courier, Launceston Examiner, ABC Four Corners and Lateline, 7 News, Today Tonight
21	Sunrise, Central Coast Express Advocate, Today Tonight
22	News Ltd,
23	2GB, Daily Telegraph
24	General
25	2GB, The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, News.com.au, Sunrise, Herald Sun, Crikey, New Matilda, The Australian
26	9 News, Sunday Mail, Sunday Night
27	The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph ABC, The Drum, Crikey, 4BC, ABC PM, 7 News, 9 News, 10 News, Daily Telegraph, The Australian
28	NT News, Herald Sun
29	2GB Alan Jones, Fairfax
30	ABC News 24 Breakfast, The Australian, Herald Sun, Bolt Report, 2UE
31	Adelaide Now, 60 Minutes, ABC, Sunday Times
32	General
33	2Day FM, A Current Affair
34	10 News, ABC News 24, 9 Sport
35	Sunday Times, Nine, 2GB, ABC
36	The Project, Sunrise, The Australian, McCrindle Research, Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, Courier Mail, Herald Sun, The Age
37	The City Chronicle, Today Tonight, Daily Telegraph
38	ABC News, Today, Herald Sun
39	ABC, The Australian, Australian Story
<b>2012</b>	
1	General, Yahoo 7, West Australian
2	ABC, Fairfax
3	Sunrise, today, 7 News, 9 News, 10 News, Daily Telegraph, Manly Daily, The Australian
4	General, National Indigenous Times

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**Question No: 70**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 82 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Casualisation of News**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** I would like to put a couple of questions to Mr Scott about journalists, in particular those in ABC newsrooms, and casualisation. You might want to take one or two of these on notice as they are fairly technical, but can you give me the number and proportion of casuals as opposed to the number of permanent journalists, and how does this compares with, for example, pre-1995 newsroom levels?

**Mr Scott:** Yes, I need to take that on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I know we are going back a way. That was before the major funding cuts that the Howard government initiated after 1996, and it is—

**Senator CONROY:** And before digital technology really took off.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I do know that digital technology requires that you massively casualise your workforce. Perhaps I am verballing you there minister. You would probably need to go back. I am trying to get a sense of the proportion. Is the ABC, among your journalists and in your newsrooms in particular, increasing the number of casuals in the workforce?

**Mr Scott:** Let me come back you on notice and talk about it.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Surely that is a yes or a no.

**Mr Scott:** I do not have the staffing details and the background. So let me take that on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** The first question was detailed, the second one was pretty general. Has there been an increase in casualisation in newsrooms over the last few years?

**Mr Scott:** We certainly employ casuals in our newsrooms, as many news organisations do. That gives us some flexibility in how we deploy our staff, and it also works in the interests of some of our members and staff as well. But let me come back to you and provide a more detailed answer on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** What I am after is what that has done to the age profile of staffing—I am not trying to interpret any positive or negative bias either way—and the average and maximum length of time that people remain casuals. In other words, what proportion go on to get permanent employment?

**Answer:**

Employee data of the kind requested is not readily available for the full time period in question and its compilation would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Data is available for the period 1998 to present. In 1998, there were 855 on-going staff and 93 causal staff in the News Division.

In 2012, there are 953 on-going staff and 169 casuals - an overall increase in the percentage of casuals from 10.88% to 17.73%.

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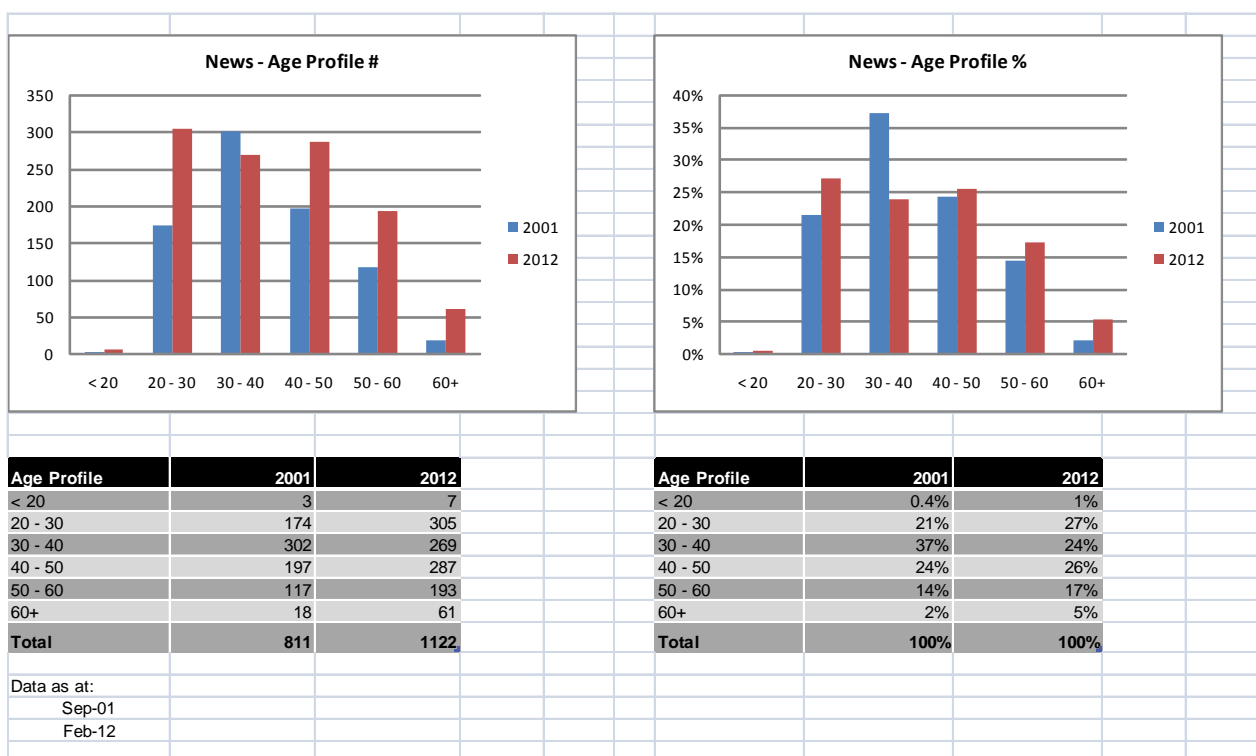
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The ABC's employment policies have not changed over this period. There are a number of reasons why some casual staff are required.

- For instance, casual staff are required for short and medium term backfill to cope with sickness, unexpected leave and for short-term fill-ins following a resignation or secondment.
- When staff are seconded to work in alternative program-making areas for career development, their positions are backfilled by casual staff.
- As a further example, given the specialised skills and training required for ABC News 24 staff, there is a need to maintain a broad and specially trained pool of casual staff to fill in as required. As a result, some positions within the unit are set aside for casuals so they can keep their skill level current.

Data in relation to the age profile of staff is only available from 2001 onwards and is set out below.



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**Question No: 71**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 84 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Restructure of Radio National Network**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** There was the restructure of the Radio National network last year which resulted in the loss of a couple of pretty high-profile presenters. How many ABC employees were retrenched or redeployed from RN, and at what cost or saving to the ABC?

**Mr Scott:** I will have to take that. It certainly was not a budget saving exercise. It was a refreshing of the line-up of Radio National. I must say, we are delighted with how it sounds on air and the audience response. You are going to get some people who are unhappy at any change, but we are very happy with how it has gone. It certainly was not driven by cost savings; it was driven around refreshing and renewing the network, and we think it has done a good job. I can get some specific details to you.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I would not mind a summary of the feedback that you received.

**Mr Scott:** Sure. As I have said, we made changes to the Radio National schedule in the past. I recall getting 5,000 letters around some of them. Some of those were on things like when we removed the *Religion Report*. Of course, we brought back a religion and ethics program under this revised schedule.

**Answer:**

The new Radio National (RN) schedule was developed in close consultation with staff and seeks to renew and revitalise the network. A draft schedule was released in September 2011. Feedback from staff and the public was taken on board and the final schedule was released in November last year. The new schedule included the return of the Media Report and a Religion and Ethics Report.

As with any program changes, there is a period of adjustment for listeners. Since the schedule changes in January, ABC Audience and Consumer Affairs has received 46 complaints regarding the changes to the RN schedule. There were also 33 complaints received regarding the draft schedule between October and December 2011.

The introduction of the 2012 Radio National (RN) program schedule resulted in a reduction in the network's overall staffing level of three people. There was a total saving of \$176,000 pa.

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**Question No: 72**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 86 (14/02/2012)**

**Topic: Funding Cuts – QoN 158 – October 2011 Estimates**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

**Senator BIRMINGHAM:** Thanks. Can I refer you to answer to question on notice No. 158, which relates to funding cuts and some of the programming decisions that Senator Singh, me and others have been discussing today. It says: 'In formal conversation and through the Senate inquiry into recent ABC TV programming decisions, the government has discussed with the ABC the issue of ABC programming decisions.' I am interested in the first part of that, 'in formal conversation'. Does that mean that the minister or the department or the government have made formal approaches to the ABC about programming decisions? If so, how and by what means?

**Mr Scott:** I would have to check on that. I think we do have meetings with the department and meetings with minister. Partly what we talk about is the production model that we have, which is the mixed production model—a commitment to internal production and a commitment to working with the independent production sector and the mix of production that we make around the country.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM:** This question was a little more specific to programming decisions, I think.

**Mr Scott:** I think the reference will be broadly to the philosophy that we have around that mixed production model rather than scheduling or our own specific programming. There is no engagement at that level of the department or the ministerial level.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM:** If you could review that question on notice and provide clarity as to what is meant by that statement, that would be appreciated.

**Mr Scott:** I will get a bit more detail, sure.

**Answer:**

The answer provided to question on notice 158 (Supplementary Estimates 2011) sought to confirm that the broader issue of the ABC's programming strategy had been raised in discussions between the ABC and the Government.

In those discussions, individual programming decisions have been canvassed in the context of the wider programming strategy.



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**Question No: 73**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Bitcoin incident**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

- a. What was the result of the misconduct case against an ABC employee who installed Bitcoin mining software on ABC computers?
- b. How and when was the Bitcoin software installed, discovered and removed from the ABC network?
- c. How many computers were affected and what operating system were they using?
- d. What Bitcoin address or addresses were being used by ABC computers?
- e. What is the total number of Bitcoins mined by ABC computers?
- f. What procedures have been put in place to secure ABC IT infrastructure and prevent unauthorised software usage in the future?

**Answer:**

- a. The employee was disciplined and their access to all production systems has been restricted. The employee is being closely supervised by their Manager.
- b. An ABC staff member with high level IT access privileges placed the Bitcoin mining code on the ABC website. The placement of the code was detected by internal ABC checks within thirty minutes and was removed immediately.
- c. The ABC Grandstand Sports website was affected for a short period. There was no further impact on the ABC website and its distribution. There was no impact on the ABC's internal and external online distribution infrastructure. As this software was for a short time embedded within pages on the ABC website, visitors to these pages may have been exposed to the Bitcoin software, however it is not possible for the ABC to ascertain whether any audience computers were affected by Bitcoin software. The ABC has not received any complaints from audience members as a result of this Bitcoin code.
- d. None.
- e. The Bitcoin mining was ineffective and did not generate any Bitcoin.
- f. The ABC is cognisant of its responsibilities with regards to IT security. ABC IT systems continue to scan the ABC's equipment for vulnerabilities and all users of ABC's internet technologies are bound by ABC security policies and codes of practice.

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**Question No: 74**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: *The Slap***

**Senator Abetz asked:**

- a. What was the total cost of bringing *The Slap* to the ABC (including production, staff costs, marketing etc)?
- b. What is the cost of production of the upcoming DVD and Blu Ray and will this be covered by the ABC?
- c. What is the estimated size of the audience for the timeslot in which *The Slap* was broadcast?
- d. To date, how many times have the episodes been watched on iView or downloaded in their entirety?
- e. How many complaints have been received about the content or classification of *The Slap*?

**Answer:**

- a. The total ABC contribution to *The Slap* including cash and resources was \$4,676,210 or 53% of the total production budget for the series which was \$8,818,885. The remainder of the budget was funded by Screen Australia, Film Victoria, the producer via the government funded producer offset tax rebate as well as the Australian distributor Hopscotch and the international distributor DVD Rights.
- b. The production of the DVD and Blu Ray releases is being undertaken by a third party distributor.
- c. The average audience for *The Slap* on ABC1 was 934,000 (5 capital cities). The peak audience of 1 million was achieved by the premiere episode. *The Slap* was repeated on ABC2 and achieved an average audience of 214,000.
- d. *The Slap* recorded 721,000 plays on ABC iView (6 October – 8 December 2011).
- e. The ABC received 130 complaints about the content and classification of *The Slap*. Three complaints were referred to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The ACMA has finalised two investigations and has found no breach of the ABC's Code of Practice. The third investigation is yet to be finalised.

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**Question No: 75**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: tvmp.abc.net.au**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

- a. What is the purpose of the ABC subdomain, tvmp.abc.net.au?
- b. What is the monthly cost of hosting this subdomain and how many months has it been active?
- c. Which department of the ABC manages the operation of and content on this subdomain?
- d. What is the nature of the content hosted at this address what content has been hosted there since the iView RSS feeds were moved from here?

**Answer:**

- a. The tvmp.abc.net.au subdomain is an externally hosted web server. It is used by ABC TV Multiplatform to host web services and online tools which support ABC TV websites that cannot be hosted on the ABC's internal infrastructure. These are web applications or features that rely on PHP and MySQL database engines.
- b. The cost is approx \$55/month; the server has been active for about 2 years.
- c. ABC TV Multiplatform manage this server and its content.
- d. The content includes supporting web services for ABC TV online services, such as:
  - databases and APIs to support At the Movies and Rage mobile apps
  - Giggle and Hoot uploads
  - Hungry Beast vodcast feed
  - contact forms for various ABC TV websites
  - Strictly Speaking vodcast info and other content
  - redirects for Hungry Beast archive site
  - databases and APIs for interactive website features such as the botanical map for Gardening Australia, and the art making tool on the Phillipa Finch website

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**Question No: 76**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Australia Network**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. When was the ABC first advised of the Government's decision to award the Australia Network contract to the ABC?
- b. What discussions has the ABC had with the Government since its announcement?
- c. Have all staff had contracts renewed? Have any staff chosen not to renew their contracts?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC was first advised of the Government's decision to award the Australia Network contract to the ABC on the date of the public announcement, 5 December 2011.
- b. Since the announcement the ABC has held discussions with departmental officials from the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding the terms for the provision of the service.
- c. All relevant staff contracts have been renewed. No staff have chosen not to renew their contracts.

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**Question No: 77**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Australia Network**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Has the ABC secured the satellite capacity required to continue broadcasting the Australia Network? How much did this cost? How much does that compare to prior contracts?
- b. Seeing as the tender was originally changed as a result of the Arab Spring, how is the ABC progressing with plans to expand the Australia Network's broadcast footprint into the Arab world?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC has secured satellite capacity to 30 June 2012 at the same cost as previous contracts. Longer term satellite capacity will be acquired following confirmation with the Government of the terms of service for the new contract.
- b. The ABC is currently operating the Australia Network service under an extension to the transition arrangements in the existing contract with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Details of the terms of service going forward are currently being negotiated. The service's footprint and activities will be determined as part of this negotiation.

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**Question No: 78**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Australia Network**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Under the new agreements will there be more or less sport televised? How will this impact revenues?
- b. How much sport will be televised on the Australia network in 2012? What is the anticipated advertising revenue associated from sports broadcasting in 2012?
- c. What was the substance of Mr Scott's phone call to Minister Ferguson?
- d. What agreement has been reached with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the Australia Network contract? Do any guidelines exist for the operation of the service?
- e. Has any guidance or instruction been given to the News Division or to reporters/journalists on how to report on the Australia Network?

**Answer:**

- a. New agreements are currently being negotiated and the amount of sport to be carried is yet to be determined.
- b. There is an agreement with the Australian Football League (AFL) to televise matches from the 2012 AFL season. There may be other one-off sporting events televised throughout the year. Specific advertising revenue associated with sports coverage is yet to be determined.
- c. The discussion with Minister Ferguson related to the ABC's performance as Australia's international broadcaster. No details of the tender were discussed.
- d. Refer to the ABC's response to QoN 76 (b).
- e. No.

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**Question No: 79**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: The Drum**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Did the CEO of Sky News Angelos Frangopoulos or anyone else at Sky News submit an opinion piece regarding the Australia Network tender? Why was this piece not published?

Considering The Drum published a piece by Bruce Haigh which was supportive of the ABC retaining the Australia Network contract – how is refusing to publish a piece in support of Sky News' bid consistent with the ABC responsibility to be fair and balanced?

**Answer:**

A piece written by Angelos Frangopoulos was sent to The Drum on 10 November 2011. Mr Frangopoulos was encouraged to submit by the editor of The Drum.

In order to provide a balanced view, the Acting Director of Innovation (which administers The Drum site) invited ABC Managing Director Mark Scott to submit a piece which would be published alongside the Frangopoulos piece. Publication of both pieces was to occur the next day, 11 November 2011.

Mr Frangopoulos was advised of this and indicated his preference for his piece to be published immediately. As this could not be accommodated, Mr Frangopoulos withdrew his piece, which was picked up by *The Australian* that afternoon.

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**Question No: 80**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: News 24**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Is it correct that ABC will make half of its technicians redundant following the move away from separate broadcast equipment at each ABC site to a national digital network?
- b. Is the net loss 35 positions?
- c. Will this result in outsourcing of technical functions previously performed in house? What effect will this have on operations and production?

**Answer:**

- a. No, it is not correct that the ABC will make half of its technicians redundant following the move away from separate broadcast equipment at each ABC site to a national digital network.
- b. In light of ongoing technological change, the ABC is currently planning to ensure there is greater alignment between the support services provided and ABC business needs, which will result in the planned net loss of approximately 23 positions.
- c. There are no plans for the outsourcing of technical functions previously performed in house. The changes being pursued will result in an increased level of Local Technical Services support for on-air programs. The focus will be on restoring services with a newly created National Broadcast Support Team complementing local technical support in providing an efficient, robust and comprehensive on-air support for networked broadcast systems.



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**Question No: 81**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Kabul Bureau**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Has the ABC's Kabul bureau closed? Why? How does the ABC plan on covering issues from Afghanistan when Australian troops are conducting operations? Was this closure the result of budgetary constraints?
- b. How many international bureaus did the ABC operate in each of 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12?
- c. How many foreign correspondents did the ABC employ in each of 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12?
- d. Does the ABC expect that there will be any changes to the number of ABC international bureaus or foreign correspondents as a result of the Australia Network tender decision?

**Answer:**

- a. The temporary ABC bureau in Kabul was established in 2011. It was established to cover the tenth year of Australian and coalition troops having been in Afghanistan and was only intended to operate for one year. The ABC now covers Afghanistan from its base in New Delhi (as was the case prior to 2011), with staff making trips to Afghanistan when required. ABC News has regular discussions with the Australian military about planned visits to Afghanistan by Australian-based reporters.
- b. 2009/10: 12  
2010/11: 13 (including the temporary bureau in Kabul for the 2011 calendar year).  
2011/12: 12
- c. 18 in each year (plus 3 additional correspondents for the Australia Network).
- d. There are no plans to reduce the number of correspondents as a result of the Australia Network decision. The ABC is currently in discussions with the Government regarding the terms for the provision of the service.

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**Question No: 82**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Budget and Advertising**

**82 Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Is it correct that managers across the ABC have been asked to find savings of 1.5% across their budgets?
- b. Is the ABC presently on track to meet its budget?
- c. What is the shortfall in the news budget?
- d. How much does the ABC spend on marketing activities?

**83 Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. How much has the ABC spent advertising "The Straits" in major metropolitan News Limited and Fairfax newspapers? Please provide details.
- b. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in non-ABC media in 2010-11 and this financial year to date? Please detail by media market. Does the ABC expect advertising expenditure will be within budget this year?
- c. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in News Limited publications in 2010-11 and this financial year to date?
- d. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in Fairfax media publications in 2010-11 and this financial year to date?

**82 Answer:**

- a. No.
- b. Yes.
- c. As at March 2012, ABC News' year-to-date performance up until the end of February is running over budget. However, it is too early to determine the News Budget outcome for the 2011-12 financial year.
- d. Refer to Question on Notice 83.

**83 Answer:**

- a. The ABC spent \$99,000 on print advertising for *The Straits*- \$81,000 with Fairfax (*The Age/SMH/Sunday Life*) and \$18,000 with News Limited (*Sunday Magazine*).

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- b. The ABC spent a total of \$7.9 million on advertising and promotion in 2010-11 and \$2.8 million for the 2011-12 financial year to date (as at the end of February).
- c. The ABC uses agencies to place advertisements and as a result, does not retain breakdowns of spend in News Limited publications
- d. Refer to (c) above.

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**Question No: 83**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Advertising**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. How much has the ABC spent advertising “The Straits” in major metropolitan News Limited and Fairfax newspapers? Please provide details.
- b. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in non-ABC media in 2010-11 and this financial year to date? Please detail by media market. Does the ABC expect advertising expenditure will be within budget this year?
- c. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in News Limited publications in 2010-11 and this financial year to date?
- d. How much has the ABC spent on advertising in Fairfax media publications in 2010-11 and this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC spent \$99,000 on print advertising for *The Straits*- \$81,000 with Fairfax (*The Age/SMH/Sunday Life*) and \$18,000 with News Limited (*Sunday Magazine*).
- b. The ABC spent a total of \$7.9 million on advertising and promotion in 2010-11 and \$2.8 million for the 2011-12 financial year to date (as at the end of February).
- c. The ABC uses agencies to place advertisements and as a result, does not retain breakdowns of spend in News Limited publications
- d. Refer to (c) above.

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**Question No: 84**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: ACMA ABC 891 Investigation**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. Has the ABC responded to the ACMA's finding of bias against ABC 891 presenters Matthew Abraham and David Bevan regarding their interview with former South Australian Deputy Premier Kevin Foley?
- b. Has or will any action be taken against Bevan or Abraham?
- c. Is the ABC or Bevan or Abraham appealing the finding of the ACMA?

**Answer:**

- a. The ACMA provided its final report to the ABC in relation to this matter on 19 December 2011. Prior to this, the ABC made a detailed response to the ACMA's preliminary findings.

There are currently no outstanding information requests with the ABC and the matter rests with the ACMA.

- b. A formal discussion was convened between the South Australian Local Content Manager and the presenters to discuss the ACMA investigation and its outcomes, approaches to interviewing, and the practical application of the Code of Practice.
- c. The ABC does not intend to appeal the finding.

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**Question No: 85**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Local Sport**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Please advise the status of negotiations with the various sporting bodies in relation to the continuation of state-based sporting coverage? (Leagues in question are VFL, SANFL, WAFL, QRL and NSW Rugby). Will any of the competitions be required to fund the coverage? To what extent?

**Answer:**

Agreements have been reached with the VFL, SANFL and WAFL for the broadcast of the 2012 season, with an option for one further year in 2013. This arrangement enables both parties to fully review the agreements at the end of 2012 before agreeing on coverage of the 2013 season.

The ABC's coverage agreement with NSW Rugby for coverage of the Shute Shield is still current and concludes at the end of 2012.

Broadcast offers were made to both the Queensland Rugby League and AFL Tasmania. The Queensland Rugby League has decided to take up a commercial broadcasting opportunity with the Nine Network. AFL Tasmania have decided to pursue a commercial broadcasting arrangement with Southern Cross Television.

The various sports administration bodies make a modest contribution to the cost of production by purchasing rights in the ABC recordings. The VFL, WAFL and SANFL will each pay \$90,000 this season for those rights. In terms of the overall cost of production this is minimal. Each competition costs the ABC around \$1.6 million to produce each year.

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**Question No: 86**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: ABC World Today**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

- a. In an interview on *The World Today* on February 14 2012 Geneive Abdo answered questions regarding the bombing of Israeli embassies. How does the ABC determine a person is an expert on a particular topic? What checking of the credentials and credibility of organisations is undertaken before a representative is interviewed as an 'expert'?
- b. Does the ABC agree with Ms Adbo that Israel might have bombed its own embassies? What evidence did Ms Adbo present to the ABC to substantiate the claims she made and the ABC aired?
- c. Where an interviewee makes outrageous statements how does the ABC apologise and/or correct the record? Has the ABC made such an apology and/or corrected the record?
- d. In this interview the Israeli Government was referred to as the "very extremist Israeli Government" and the Iranian Government was referred to as "the Iranians." By what measure is the Israeli Government "very extremist"? How is it fair and balanced to refer to the "very extremist Israeli Government" and "the Iranians"?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC regularly interviews a wide range of people on a wide range of topics, and steps are always taken in the time available to determine the experience, background and relevance of interviewees. In this case, Ms Abdo was determined by the ABC to be someone with extensive experience as a news correspondent in Iran, and an Iran specialist with the National Security Network, a US foreign policy think tank. That made her an appropriate person to interview as one of a great many people the ABC interviews on Middle East issues across a range of programs.
- b. The ABC does not have a view on Ms Abdo's statements. The broadcasting of Ms Abdo's comments does not constitute an endorsement of her opinion. Ms Abdo put forward a view. These were controversial comments.
- c. The ABC has not apologised or corrected the record, as we believe it was clearly apparent that Ms Abdo was putting forward her own possible hypothesis, rather than presenting a matter of fact. At times, opinions broadcast by the ABC will be contentious and some in our audience will vehemently and passionately disagree with not only the views expressed, but with the editorial decision taken by the ABC to air those views. However, the ABC's editorial standards for impartiality recognise that a democratic society depends on diverse sources of contending opinions. Further, this interview was undertaken in the context of ongoing

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coverage by *The World Today*, and the ABC more broadly, on Israel and the international community's relationship and concerns with Iran.

- d. At no time in this interview did the ABC use these terms to characterise and contrast the Israeli Government and the Iranian Government. The terms were used by Ms Abdo. This should not be taken as representing the views of the ABC.



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**Question No: 87**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: The Ten Conditions of Love**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

1. Why was the documentary 'The Ten Conditions of Love' not shown on the Australia Network before the network's licence expired?
2. Has the ABC or the Australia Network been approached by the Chinese Government or its representatives in relation to the screening of this documentary?
  - a. What did this approach involve?
  - b. What information was communicated?
3. Have any ABC executives or Australia Network executives met with Chinese government or its representatives in relation to the screening of this documentary?
  - a. If so, when did this occur?
  - b. What was the outcome of the meeting/s?
4. Did either the ABC or the Australia Network provide the Chinese government with a copy of the documentary?
  - a. If so, when?
  - b. What was the outcome of this?
5. Are there any plans to renew the Australia Network's licence to broadcast the documentary?

**Answer:**

1. Due to the sensitive nature of the program, Australia Network was contractually obliged to consult with its over 650 re-broadcasters – many of whom indicated they were not prepared to screen the film on their platforms. Australia Network is reliant on re-broadcasters across to Asia Pacific to re-distribute its signal on proprietary platforms subject to local government regulation. There are obviously cost implications in the event Australia Network was required to provide alternative programming to re-broadcasters if required. For these reasons, it was not expedited.
2. No direct approach by the Chinese Government or its representatives was made in relation to the program.
3. Australia Network has regular meetings with regional embassy and foreign ministry officers. During these meetings, Chinese officials have raised concerns about what they perceived were inaccuracies in the film.
  - a. October 2011.
  - b. The ABC reiterated its editorial independence and offered the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs the opportunity to provide comments on the issue.

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4. No.
5. The licence to broadcast the program has been extended. It is expected to be broadcast during 2012.

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**Question No: 88**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Contractors**

**Senator Humphries asked:**

- a. How many contractors are currently employed in the department/agency?
- b. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 2 years?
- c. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 5 years?
- d. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 10 years?
- e. Does the department /agency make a habit of employing contractors to fill positions on a permanent basis?

**Answer:**

- a. 339 individual contractors have been paid through the ABC payroll system in the 2012 calendar year.
- b. 20 contractors have been paid regularly for a period of more than 2 and less than 5 years.
- c. 13 contractors have been paid regularly for a period of more than 5 years.
- d. Contractors were not paid through the payroll system before 2006; no earlier records are therefore available from the current payroll system.
- e. No.

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**Question No: 89**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend**

**Senator Humphries asked:**

- a. What is the effect of the efficiency dividend increase from 1.5 percent to 4 percent on the department/agency's budget bottom line during financial years 2012/13, 13/14, 14/15?
- b. What percentage of the department/agency's budget is designated to staffing?
- c. What is the size of the department/agency's staffing establishment? Include figures for FTE, PT, casual, contractors, and consultants.
- d. What specific strategies will the department/agency adopt to ensure continued operation within budget?
- e. Will or has consideration been made to reducing staffing compliment including contractors, and consultants?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC is not subject to the Efficiency Dividend.
- b. Approximately 39% of the ABC Expense Budget is related to Employee Benefits.
- c. The following table indicates the current staffing levels at the ABC. Staff on fixed term arrangements such as the backfill of maternity leave are included within the Non-Ongoing figures. The ABC does not keep centralised data related to the number of consultants on site at any particular time.

ABC Employees January 2012				
Employment Type	Casual	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Ongoing		3,444	690	4,134
Non-Ongoing		418	89	507
Casual	876			876
Total	876	3,862	779	5,517

- d. The ABC operates within Budget – a range of governance elements are in place to ensure this is this case, including monitoring and oversight by the ABC Board.
- e. The ABC continually monitors its operations to ensure the efficient and effective achievement of its Charter obligations. Staffing levels, including the appropriate mix of contractors and consultants, are included in that monitoring.

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**Question No: 90**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many ongoing staff have been recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
- b. How many non ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
- c. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

**Answer:**

- a. One hundred and fourteen (114) ongoing staff were recruited this financial year to date (as at 26 February 2012) at the classifications shown below:

<b>Staff Levels</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative/Professional	21
Content Maker	60
Retail Head Office Assistant	1
Retail Shop Assistant	10
Retail Shop Manager	4
Senior Executive	4
Technologist	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>

- b. Five hundred and thirty eight (538) non ongoing positions exist (as at 26 February 2012). Seventy two (72) non ongoing positions were created this financial year to date.
- c. Between 20 June 2011 and 26 February 2012, five hundred and thirty four (534) employees have been employed on contract. The average length of their employment period is 120 days.

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**Question No: 91**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11? What classification were these staff?
- b. How many non ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11? What classification were these staff?

**Answer:**

- a. Three hundred and six (306) ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11 at the classifications shown below:

<b>Staff Levels</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative/Professional	70
Content Maker (Editorial)	105
Content Maker	68
Director	1
Retail Head Office Manager	1
Retail Shop Assistant	17
Retail Shop Manager	1
Senior Executive	25
Technologist	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>

- b. One hundred and eighty nine (189) non ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11.

<b>Staff Levels</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative/Professional	34
Content Maker	137
Senior Executive	9
Technologist	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>189</b>

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**Question No: 92**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

**Answer:**

The ABC, as a tax payer funded Corporation, is mindful of its expenditure.

The ABC has no “reduction targets”. However, mindful of operating efficiently, divisions regularly review their operational requirements. A number of divisions are currently consulting with staff as to their operational requirements.

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**Question No: 93**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

How will the efficiency dividend applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department?

What percentage of your budget must be cut?

Will any staff position be cut to meet the efficiency dividend? If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not.

Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

**Answer:**

As noted in previous Senate Estimates responses, the ABC is not subject to the efficiency dividend.



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**Question No: 94**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Please list the SES positions you have in your department/agency in the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions

**Answer:**

The ABC does not use the SES classification system.

Details regarding the employment of Senior Executive level ABC staff can be found in the Corporation's annual reports.

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**Question No: 95**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

How many graduates have been engaged this year? Where have they been placed in the department/agency? Were these empty positions or are they new positions?

List what training will be provided, the name of the provider and the cost.

**Answer:**

The word 'graduate' is not generally used as a classification within the ABC.

However, recruitment specifically targeting graduates in the period June 2011 to Feb 2012 includes 7 Cadet Journalists in the News Division.

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**Question No: 96**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In writing**

**Topic: Government advertising**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What was the total cost of all advertising for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- b. For each of those years, list whether the advertising is campaign or non-campaign and details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
- c. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- d. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
- e. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
- f. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

**Answer:**

Not applicable.

For the purposes of this question, the ABC has interpreted ‘Government advertising’ to refer to “*communication of a government message to the public – possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums*”, as set out in Senator Barnett’s Question on Notice 38 from Budget Estimates 2010.

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**Question No: 97**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- c. What is the Department's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- d. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- e. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- f. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.
- g. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- h. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC considers hospitality to be a subset of its entertainment expenditure in accordance with the ABC's Entertainment and Functions policy. The ABC may also spend relatively small amounts of money on promoting new content or services in order to generate an audience. This is considered separate to hospitality and is monitored as part of promotions and marketing.
- b. N/A.
- c. The ABC has spent \$324,000 on entertainment for the financial year as at 29 February 2012. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.

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- d. N/A.
- e. Refer to (a).
- f. N/A.
- g. The ABC is forecasting to spend in total \$431,000 on entertainment in 2011-12. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.
- h. N/A.

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**Question No: 98**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In writing**

**Topic: Grants**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Has the Department/Agency complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

**Answer:**

The ABC has not administered any discretionary grants during the year.

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**Question No: 99**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. What was the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- c. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- d. How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11? For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
- e. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
- f. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC has not sought or received advice from any third parties on how to respond to FOI requests. In preparing decisions in relation to requests for access to documents under the FOI Act, advice is routinely sought from the ABC's Legal Division.
- b. The ABC does not maintain records relating to the total cost which can be attributed to processing FOI requests. However, the ABC's Annual Statistical Returns which are submitted to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (and prior to 1 November 2010, to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet) contain the following information:
  - between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, the ABC estimated that 113 staff hours were spent on FOI matters, and that non-staff cost (such as staff training) directly attributable to FOI was \$145.
  - between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011, the ABC estimated that 112 staff hours were spent on FOI matters, and that the non-staff cost directly attributable to FOI was \$915.

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- c. See the answer to (b) above. The ABC has not yet submitted its Annual Statistical Return for the 2011-12 financial year.
- d. Between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010, the ABC received 13 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of the 13 requests:
- 3 were granted in full;
  - 4 were granted in part;
  - 6 were refused.

Twelve requests were completed within the applicable statutory time period, and one was completed within 30 calendar days after the applicable statutory time period. There are no outstanding requests from this period.

Between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011, the ABC received 24 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of the 24 requests:

- 1 was granted in full;
- 6 were granted in part;
- 5 were refused;
- 1 was withdrawn;
- 11 were requests that were outside the scope of the FOI Act (and therefore access was refused).

19 requests were completed within the applicable statutory time period, and 5 were completed within 30 calendar days after the applicable statutory time period. There are no outstanding requests from this period.

- e. Between 1 July 2011 and 14 February 2012, the ABC received 11 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of the 11 requests:
- 3 were granted in full (one of them outside of the formal FOI process);
  - 5 were refused;
  - 1 was withdrawn;
  - 2 were requests that were outside the scope of the FOI Act (and therefore access was refused).

There are no outstanding requests from this period.

- f. Provisions to issue conclusive certificates were repealed by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009*.



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**Question No: 100**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many consultancies were undertaken in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10?
- b. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- c. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

**Answer:**

- a. Since 2007-08, 353 consultants have been engaged by the ABC.
- b. There have been 38 consultancies undertaken in this financial year to date. Details on these consultants are as follows:

<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Purpose of Consultancy</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Below \$10,000</b>		
Various	Various	78,704
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>78,704</b>
<b>\$10,000-\$50,000</b>		
CRS Australia	Risk assessment and analysis	10,285
^Roberts, Margarete	International development projects	12,327
^Garnsey, Robert	International development projects	12,750
Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Pty Ltd	Heritage management plan	13,525
KPMG	Financial services	13,648
Invisible Hand Consulting Pty. Ltd	Strategic advice	19,020
Dynamiq Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	22,500
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Tax advice	24,000
John McCarthy	Broadcast review	25,000
^Jean-Gabriel Manguy	International development projects	27,524
BDO (NSW-VIC) Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	29,400
CB Richard Ellis Limited	Property advice and services	33,190

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<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Purpose of Consultancy</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
Frazer Walker Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	36,000
Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Limited	Strategic advice	36,300
IT Newcom Pty Limited	Strategic advice	45,760
Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	46,434
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>407,662</b>
<b>Above \$50,000</b>		
Risk Logic Pty Ltd	Strategic review	53,346
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Strategic advice and internal audit services	274,973
InterMedia UK	Strategic advice	324,747
L.E.K. Consulting	Strategic advice and review	1,346,778
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>1,999,844</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>2,486,210</b>

**Notes:**

**^ These items relate to international development projects funded by AusAID**

Consultancies that are capitalised as part of an asset recorded in the balance sheet are excluded from the list above.

The ABC's procurement policy, which is consistent with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, was applied to the above consultancies.

Data of the kind requested in relation to consultancy duration is not readily available and its compilation would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources

- c. The ABC does have an Annual Procurement Plan which reflects known procurement projects at the time the plan is updated. The ABC used to publish this plan on the AusTender website but has been advised that it is no longer required to do so by AusTender. The procurement process for any future projects will follow the ABC's procurement policy and will be in accordance with the process outlined in (b), above.

It is not feasible to detail significant consultancies in advance.

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**Question No: 101**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Monitoring**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

**Answer:**

The total cost of media monitoring services were as follows:

- 2007-08 - \$179,000
- 2008-09 - \$229,000
- 2009-10 - \$175,000
- 2010-11 - \$265,000

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**Question No: 102**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Monitoring**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?

- a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- b. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?
- c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

For the period 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012, the total cost of media monitoring, transcripts and press clipping services for the ABC was \$155,000.

- a. These services were provided to the ABC by Media Monitors.
- b. The budget for media monitoring services in 2011-12 is \$175,000.
- c. For the period 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012, the total cost of media monitoring, transcripts and press clipping services for the ABC was \$155,000.

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**Question No: 103**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Social Media**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

**Answer:**

The ABC's Use of Social Media policy is reviewed as part of the ABC's usual policy review cycle (conducted biennially). It was last updated in September 2011. The policy has not been changed since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's circular. The ABC as an independent statutory body does not fall within the scope of the Public Service Commission.

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**Question No: 104**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Contractors**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For this financial year to date:

1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.
2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details.
3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.
4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.
5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.
6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.
7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.
8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.
9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

**Answer:**

With the exception of (5), the ABC has not used any of the abovementioned companies in this financial year to date. The ABC has used Cutting Edge for services totalling \$1,045 in August 2011 related to the hire of broadcast equipment.

The ABC has typically used Cutting Edge's equipment hire services once or twice a year, and this may be expected to continue in the future. Expenditure is not expected to be significant

The ABC has no current plans to use the remaining companies in the future.

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**Question No: 105**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In writing**

**Topic: Government Payment of Accounts**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)

- a. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- b. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

The ABC's standard payment terms are 30 days Commercial as stated on the ABC internet site under the section "Doing business with the ABC". 30 Days Commercial means 30 days after the end of the month the tax invoice was rendered. An exception to this is payments to businesses that meet the Government's definition of a "small business" in *Finance Circular 2008/10 "Procurement 30 Day Payment Policy for Small Business"*, which are paid 30 days after the date the tax invoice is rendered. (A small business is defined as having less than 20 full time equivalent employees).

Between 1 July 2011 and 29 February 2012 (inclusive) the ABC made 485 payments to consultants and contractors, of which 370 transactions were paid on or before the due date.

Those invoices not paid by the due date were most likely paid late because the invoice was in dispute or because the supplier had not provided sufficient details to facilitate the payment by the due date (ABN, bank account details etc).

- a. The ABC does not pay interest on overdue invoices unless a tax invoice for the interest is received from a supplier. It is extremely rare for interest to be charged by a supplier as the reason for deferred payment is typically due to a mutual understanding (ie disputed charges etc). Interest paid on overdue invoices YTD is insignificant.

In very rare circumstances, an invoice may be received by a business unit and there may be a time lag between it being received and it being sent to accounts payable for processing. This is rare and the ABC's Shared Services department functions very efficiently.

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- b. Interest would theoretically be calculated in accordance with section 8AAD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* and would be based on the relevant daily general interest charge rate quoted for the relevant day. However, as stated above, the ABC rarely is charged interest by its suppliers. An example of how interest is to be calculated is provided in *Finance Circular 2008/10*.



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**Question No: 106**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Government stationery requirements**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

Not applicable.

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**Question No: 107**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Subscriptions**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?

- a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
- b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
- c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?

- a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
- b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
- c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?

- a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
- b. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?
- c. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

Pay TV

The ABC subscribes to pay TV.

Foxtel is the ABC's main pay TV service provider and the most commonly subscribed package is the Business Value package which includes access to the following channels:

- Sports channels
- News channel
- Documentaries
- Music
- Kids and Family
- Entertainment

In addition there are some ABC subscriptions to Disney and Racing Channels through Foxtel.

The ABC subscribes to Pay TV for a number of reasons including:

- Monitoring of other sources of News such as CNN and BBC World News for breaking stories and updates
- Provision of international Sports results

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- Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire
- Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.

In 2010-11, the ABC spent \$158,000 on Foxtel (other similar companies are not significant). The equivalent year to date amount to 29 February 2012 was \$103,000 which is tracking in line with last year.

Newspapers and Magazines

The Corporation subscribes to newspapers and magazines where the subscription is needed for business needs. Newspapers include general and financial newspapers. Magazines include technical publications used by technology staff, or magazines which the ABC has a commercial business interest in (eg product advertising). As the ABC produces its own range of magazines, including Delicious, it is reasonable to monitor equivalent magazines.

Newspapers and magazine subscriptions are recorded in the general ledger in the same account and are not separately identifiable.

During 2010-11, the Corporation spent \$847,000 on newspapers and magazines.

The equivalent amount for the period 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012 was \$528,000, which when extrapolated to 30 June (\$792,000) is tracking down on last year. It is not feasible to split these costs between magazines and newspapers as there are a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card.

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**Question No: 108**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Travel Costs**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.

Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why.

Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee.

When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.

**Answer:**

The ABC spent a total of \$12 million on travel for the period 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012. Domestic travel spend was \$8.9 million and international travel spend was \$3.1 million (including excess baggage).

The majority of domestic travel is currently undertaken by ABC's News (24%), Television (19%) and Radio (23%) divisions and is primarily undertaken in relation to news gathering and program making.

The majority of international travel is undertaken by News (56%), Television (14%) and ABC International staff (15%), in particular to cover news stories, production, Australia Network or AusAid funded activities.

ABC staff are paid a per diem when travelling in line with gazetted rates. Details of these are as follows:

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**2011/12 DOMESTIC TRAVEL EXPENDITURE**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Period 8 YTD Actual 11/12</b>
Airfares - Domestic	3,050,691
Allowances - Domestic	1,650,855
Accommodation - Domestic	1,995,996
Domestic taxis and pva	1,735,432
Travel Entitlements (9/B/4) under the Enterprise Agreement	117,802
Domestic Other (eg train fares and car hire)	375,211
<b>Total Domestic Travel Expenditure</b>	<b>8,925,987</b>

Divisional breakdown of domestic travel expenditure is set out below.

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<b>By Division</b>	
<b>\$A(k)</b>	<b>P8 2011/12</b>
ABC Commercial	257
ABC Resources	477
Business Services	161
Chief Operating Officer	82
Board/MD	195
Capital Works	424
Int'l, Strategy & Governance	254
Communications	138
Corporate Wide Initiatives	300
Editorial Policies	32
Innovation	63
Legal	21
News	2,097
People & Learning	158
Radio & Regional Content	2,015
Technology	400
Communication Networks	105
Television	1,722
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,926</b>

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**2011/12 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURE**

Description	Period 8 YTD Actual 11/12
Airfares - International	1,287,530
Allowances - International	1,347,518
International Other (eg train fares and car hire)	422,584
<b>Total International Travel Expenditure</b>	<b>3,057,632</b>
Excess Baggage	33,120
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>33,120</b>
<b>Total ABC Travel Expenditure</b>	<b>3,090,752</b>

Divisional breakdown of international travel expenditure (including excess baggage) is set out below.

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By Division	
\$A(k)	P8 2011/12
ABC Commercial	103
ABC Resources	0
Business Services	1
Chief Operating Officer	30
Board/MD	82
Capital Works	46
Int'l, Strategy & Governance	472
Communications	1
Corporate Wide Initiatives	13
Editorial Policies	1
Innovation	5
Legal	0
News	1,739
People & Learning	3
Radio & Regional Content	171
Technology	3
Communication Networks	0
Television	422
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	(0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,091</b>

The ABC's travel management company Carlson Wagonlit Travel is required to provide the most direct route when quoting flights. The most direct route is taken except in cases where it is unavailable, where direct options are limited, or where there is a significant overall cost saving from not flying direct.

Some employees are provided with lounge memberships. Qantas Club renewals occur in October every year. The renewals for October 2011 were:

	No.	Cost	\$
Bronze	75	300	22,500
Silver	74	300	22,200
Gold	54	-	-
Platinum	21	-	-
Chairman's Lounge	6	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>		<b>44,700</b>

Whilst the ABC has 230 active Corporate Qantas Club members, it only pays for Bronze/Silver status members. Payment of lounge membership is at the discretion of each Divisional Director and is usually only paid for frequent travellers.



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For new members there is a once-off \$230 joining fee. The renewal cost is \$300 per year.

It is not ABC policy for ABC Executives to travel with administrative staff.

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**Question No: 109**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Legal costs**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- b. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- c. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
- d. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC spent a total of \$3.8m on internal legal services and external legal advice to the end of February 2012. This related mainly to Employment Law, Commercial Law, Media Law and Property Law.

The split of costs is as follows:

Internal legal department (incl Employee Relations dept)	\$3.0m
External legal advice from private firms	\$0.6m
Other Legal services (mainly Barristers)	<u>\$0.2m</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.8m</b>

- b. Nil.
- c. The ABC spent \$0.6m on specialist legal advice from private firms to the end of February 2012, relating mainly to Employment Law (\$0.1m), Commercial Law (\$0.2m), Media Law (\$0.1m) and Property Law (\$0.2m).
- d. The ABC spent \$0.2m on legal services from other sources (mainly barristers) to the end of February 2012 relating to advice and/or court representation in relation to defamation, copyright and statutory interpretation.

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**Question No: 110**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Education Expenses**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant. Also include the reason for the study.

**Answer:**

The ABC provided a range of training and development opportunities focused on strategic and operational priorities. Training encompassed 27 skill areas, including broadcast operations, cross-media production, digital skills, editorial policy and quality, leadership and management, legal, health and safety, PC skills, television and video post-production. Training and development was provided via courses and seminars, on-the-job projects, coaching sessions, and remotely using webinars and e-learning packages.

The following table details training activity for the period July 2011 – December 2011 by category, duration and participation.

Financial data regarding training expenses for the financial year to date is not readily available. An unreasonable diversion of resources would be required to compile the requested data.

The data requested by Senator Fisher in relation to study leave is not readily available. An unreasonable diversion of resources would be required to compile the requested data.

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<b>Category</b>	<b>Duration Total (Hours)</b>	<b>People</b>
Broadcast Operations	403.2	28
Broadcasting Technical	609.52	96
Business Skills	519.75	108
Cross Media Production	1798.97	600
Desktop Applications - Audio	154.15	40
Desktop Applications - Databases	246.5	13
Editorial Policy	459.99	403
Equity & Diversity	699.2	488
Finance	432.4	124
Graphic Design	112.8	13
Human Resources	594.4	210
Information Management (Archives)	145.4	20
Information Technology	350.5	28
Legal	467	149
Management	3762.5	310
News Reporting	2987.86	548
OH&S	2650.39	785
PC Skills - MS Office	82.8	12
Project Management	110.4	6
Publishing	16	1
Radio Production**	4862.04	1341
Retail	1231	36
Training	584	46
TV & Video Post Production	3105.17	204
TV & Video Production	7130.17	280
Web Production	1954.05	430

Total: 35,470

\*\* Includes radio air checks

N.B. Training was delivered in all states and territories

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**Question No: 111**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees
- e) The total amount spent on the service
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
- iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

1. Between July 2011 and January 2012, \$33,440 was spent on executive coaching and other leadership training services.
2. 52 Executive Level 1 and above staff were selected to attend these services.
3. 30 Executive Level 2 and above staff and 22 EL1 and above staff attended these courses.
4. Service providers engaged were externally appointed trainers P Nesbitt, H Armstrong, M Neave, Y Vignado, P Ivanoff, D Woolfson, the Australian Graduate School of Management and the Learning Factor.
  - a) Staff participated in the Advanced Managers Program with externally appointed trainers, the Accelerated Learning Laboratory at the Australian Graduate School of Management and Advanced Media Leadership Series.

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- b) Training was group based for the Advanced Managers Program and the Australian Graduate School of Management. The Advanced Media Leadership Series consisted of facilitation and 24 hours of group training.
- c) 22 staff (EL1 and above) attended the Advanced Managers Program. 14 staff (EL2 and above) attended the Australian Graduate School of Management course. 16 staff (EL2 and above) attended the Advanced Media Leadership Series.
- d) Each course ran for a total of 24 hours.
- e) The total spend on these services was \$33,440.
- f) Fees were charged per day for facilitation with the Advanced Managers Program. Fees were charged per course at the AGSM.
  - i. The Advanced Managers Program was conducted in the Mercure Hotel (Sydney). The Australian Graduate School of Management course was conducted at the University of New South Wales. The Advanced Media Leadership Course was conducted at the University of New South Wales CBD campus.
  - ii. Refer to answer (c) above.
  - iii. Refer to answer (d) above.
  - iv. The cost of using the Mercure Hotel was \$6,258.7. The cost of using the University of New South Wales was \$6,216.00. The cost of using the University of New South Wales CBD campus was \$4,104.25.

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**Question No: 112**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Media Training**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted
4. The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a) The name and nature of the service purchased
- b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d) The total number of hours involved for all employees
- e) The total amount spent on the service
- f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part
- iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

**Answer:**

The ABC has not purchased any media training in the financial year to date.

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**Question No: 113**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Paid Parental Leave**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- b. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments.

**Answer:**

- a. Any employee of the Corporation who meets the criteria is eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Scheme. Eligibility for Paid Parental Leave is determined by the Family Assistance Office/Centrelink.
- b. Between 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012 there have been 45 employees who have received payment under the PPL Scheme.



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**Question No: 114**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Corporate Cars**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio?
- b. Where is the car/s located?
- c. What is the car/s used for?
- d. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
- e. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

- a. As at 29 February 2012 the ABC owned 62 vehicles.
- b. The ABC vehicles are located at the following locations:

<b>Rego</b>	<b>Travelled_1.07.2011 29.02.2012</b>	<b>YTD Cost_1.07.2011 29.02.2012</b>	<b>Location</b>
1AMT345	285	101	WA
1AMT346	111	3,729	WA
1AMT347	2,288	775	WA
1AMT348	1,162	503	WA
1AYN172	3,556	1,479	WA
1CTH025	484	939	WA
1DIV703	3,090	1,223	WA
ABC309	103	736	NSW
ABC310	49	945	NSW
ABC311	13,551	8,810	NSW
ZYA159	1,039	554	ACT
996905	78	30	NT
TDS996	15,581	6,754	VIC
WHK720	458	1,892	SA
WHK721	850	2,636	SA
WHK807	251	1,508	SA
WHK808	824	1,628	SA
XKS395	2,088	1,344	SA
ABC2	344	1,426	NT
ABC202	0	346	NSW
NPA344	1,374	1,615	VIC

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NPA346	1,908	4,742	VIC
NPA349	101	10,454	VIC
NPA376	0	1,207	VIC
OPT230	1,646	3,727	VIC
POJ112	111	687	VIC
QVW118	750	704	VIC
1AZB106	2,471	1,423	WA
WHK805	1,500	1,299	SA
700FYK	4,465	5,294	Brisbane
ABC102	43,828	2,023	NSW
ABC322	81,350	2,198	NSW
QVW116	0	511	VIC
BST77V	25,985	4,167	NSW
666896	0	-	NT
552LRK	6,416	1,372	QLD
594FET	11,379	5,342	QLD
652FET	1,757	1,599	QLD
913MSG	1,069	977	QLD
ABC315	3,674	3,584	NSW
OB1ABC	344	4,228	VIC
ZNT739	597	934	NT
ABC201	2,278	4,793	NSW
ABC001	1,545	1,729	TAS
ABC003	526	248	TAS
ABC004	1,523	205	HOBART
ABC009	617	1,006	TAS
RKU144	918	707	VIC
1TCN846	n/a	39	WA
1TEK676	n/a	193	WA
1TFT575	9	194	WA
1TJJ452	n/a	1,346	WA
249QJE	n/a	1,086	QLD
53392S	n/a	1,486	VIC
ABC007	0	67	TAS
AT07JA	n/a	1,485	ACT
NT98DN	n/a	0	NSW
R46997	0	2,866	NSW
T48378	0	29	MELBOURNE
TG2936	350	882	NT
YFW865	0	59	SA
1AYN904	4,060	689	WA
	252,734	116,668	

- c. The vehicles are used predominately for ABC production purposes across News, Radio and Television.

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- d. Refer to (b).
- e. Refer to (b).

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**Question No: 115**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Taxi Costs**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- b. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.

**Answer:**

- a. The ABC does not record expenditure on taxis as a separate line item. Any amounts paid to an employee for the use of the employee's private vehicle are also included in the general ledger account. The amounts reimbursed for the use of an employee's private vehicle are minimal.

Expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of private vehicles were as follows:

2007-08 - \$2.85m;  
2008-09 - \$2.77m;  
2009-10 - \$2.68m;  
2010-11 - \$2.83m

Divisional breakdown of expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of employees' private vehicle is as per the following table.

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By Division				
\$A(k)	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/10	2010/11
ABC Commercial	168	125	124	111
ABC Resources	143	178	183	155
Business Services/COO/Board/MD	117	76	97	97
Capital Works	89	64	74	43
Int'l, Strategy & Governance	79	122	74	67
Communications	7	22	10	37
Corporate Wide Initiatives	13	21	15	15
Editorial Policies	12	9	11	14
Innovation	22	29	23	29
Legal	15	6	7	15
News	840	885	892	1,047
People & Learning	37	43	37	36
Radio & Regional Content	631	593	551	549
Technology	97	109	69	81
Communication Networks	14	0	13	23
Television	533	478	476	497
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	42	6	21	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,858</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>2,834</b>

- b. Expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of private vehicles as at the end of February 2012 was \$1.74 million.

Divisional breakdown of expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of employees' private vehicle as at the end of February 2012 is as per the following table.

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<b>By Division</b>	
<b>\$A(k)</b>	<b>P8 2011/12</b>
ABC Commercial	68
ABC Resources	78
Business Services/COO/Board/MD	71
Capital Works	56
Int'l, Strategy & Governance	31
Communications	27
Corporate Wide Initiatives	17
Editorial Policies	6
Innovation	18
Legal	7
News	654
People & Learning	23
Radio & Regional Content	336
Technology	55
Communication Networks	11
Television	273
Corporate Strategy & Marketing	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,735</b>

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**Question No: 116**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Credit Cards**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. How many staff in each department and agency have a corporate credit card? What is their classification?
- b. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
- c. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
- d. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
- e. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
- f. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

**Answer:**

- a. 645 staff have an ABC procurement card and 56 staff have corporate American Express cards. These staff comprise:

	Procurement	Amex
Staff Band 2	1	0
Staff Band 3	13	0
Staff Band 4	59	0
Staff Band 5	84	1
Staff Band 6	119	1
Staff Band 7	141	14
Staff Band 8	59	8
Staff Band 9	35	19
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>43</b>
SE Band 1	30	0
SE Band 2	60	3
SE Band 3	27	2
SE Band 4 & AWAs	17	8
<b>Total Exec</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>645</b>	<b>56</b>

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- b. The ABC's policy for the use of credit and charge cards prohibits improper or personal use of cards. The policy provides that where an employee inadvertently uses a card for personal use, the employee will be counselled and must reimburse the ABC. More serious breaches of the policy, or any continued cases of misuse are referred to internal audit for investigation.

Internal audit assess all reports and determines whether an investigation is warranted. The assessment includes considering whether the issue meets the reporting threshold for investigation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Employees found to have committed fraud may face disciplinary procedures under the ABC's relevant employment agreements and/ or policies.

- c. All ABC procurement cards are required to be acquitted at the end of each month. All purchases are to be approved by an independent delegate and expenditure is required to be supported by receipts. Card use is then centrally monitored by Finance and if a cardholder does not comply with the acquittal deadlines, the card may be suspended.

Internal audit undertakes continuous monitoring of ABC Procurement Card transactions using Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs). This identifies unusual transactions for further detailed review which involves the verification of a sample of transactions and supporting documentation (such as receipts) and testing for compliance with applicable ABC policies.

- d. Refer to answer b, above.
- e. There have been no cases of credit card misuse investigated by Internal Audit in the year to date.
- f. Card holders are required to acknowledge the procurement card policy before a card is issued. The policy and procedure is reviewed from time to time and cardholders are advised of any changes to the policy.



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**Question No: 117**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Provision of Equipment**

**Senator Fisher asked:**

- a. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.
- b. What equipment is provided to department/agency staff? Please list what the equipment is, the cost, the classification of the staff receiving the equipment and the reason why.

**Answer:**

- a. Not applicable.
- b. The ABC provides broadcasting services on a 24/7 basis. These services include the broadcasting of radio and television services and the provision of online services to a range of devices including mobile phones. Much of this content is broadcast live to air. Twenty four hour operations necessitate the availability of senior and operational management out of hours and also away from ABC offices in order for editorial and operational decisions to be made in a timely fashion. Content making staff who regularly operate in the field and away from ABC locations may also be provided with the necessary equipment to collect, edit and sometimes upload the content back to an ABC system remotely.

In providing staff with equipment to fulfil their duties away from ABC offices, the nature and needs of individual roles are taken into account and approved by senior management.

Such equipment includes personal computers, mobile phones and a very small number of tablets, digital single lens reflex cameras and video cameras with ancillary equipment and other field recording equipment. The vast majority of staff provided with this equipment are multiplatform content makers working in regional areas as well as operational and senior managers.

The multiplatform content makers are provided with a portable kit including laptop computers, digital cameras, microphones, smartphones and ancillary equipment in order to be able to collect content, edit that content and upload it back to an ABC system remotely while away from an ABC office.

A limited number of content makers, including journalists working on creating radio and television content have a need to record material on a regular basis while away from the office.

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When it is required, staff in operational management roles are provided with laptop personal computers and/or smartphones in order to be able to access critical ABC business systems and communications while away from an ABC office. Some management staff also need to be able to access ABC content while away from the office in order for editorial decisions to be made in a timely fashion.

Well established processes are in place across the Corporation to ensure that staff are held accountable for all equipment issued to them and that it is returned to the ABC when no longer required as part of their role. The acquisition of such equipment is based on business needs and the ABC follows Commonwealth procurement guidelines in sourcing equipment. In line with Commonwealth processes the cost of this equipment is the best available in the market.

The following table is a summary of the key types of equipment provided and the classification of staff assigned this equipment with some notes regarding the reason for the equipment allocation.

<b>Equipment (Cost from market as sourced following Commonwealth procurement guidelines)</b>	<b>Classification of Staff</b>	<b>Reasons for allocation of Equipment</b>
Audio Recorder	Content Makers	Audio field recording
Digital SLR Camera – some with Camera Lens, Battery Pack, Back Pack, AV Cable, Memory Disk	Content Makers	Capturing photographs and/or video in the field
DAT recorder	Content Maker	Audio field recording
DVD player	Management	Content review and approval
Microphone	Content Makers	Audio field recording
External Hard Drive	Content Makers	Storage of audio and/or video content recorded in the field
iPad	Management	Content review and approval
Mobile phone	Content Makers; Operational and Senior Management	Audio field recording, editing and uploading; Out of office and out of hours communication
Modem	Content Makers	Out of office and out of hours communication from remote regional locations

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PDA	Content Makers	Audio field recording, editing and uploading
Personal computer	Content Makers; Operational Management	Editing and uploading audio and/or video content recorded in the field; Access to ABC business systems away from ABC locations; Content review and approval
Television	Content Maker; Operational Management	Content viewing or review and approval
Video Camera	Content Makers	Video Field Recording
Video recorder	Operational management	Content review and approval

The ABC is unable to advise the cost of the provision of this equipment as it would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.