

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 1

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 5 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Eric Campbell – SBE QoN 140

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: Can I move to Eric Campbell. I was told in answer to question No. 140 that ABC News management has raised this matter with Mr Campbell. Was he actually counselled?

Mr Scott: I believe he was.

Senator ABETZ: Can you take it on notice and confirm whether he was actually counselled and whether he was asked to apologise for that quite offensive tweeting that he undertook. I will not go through the details with you now.

Mr Scott: I understand that the account is no longer active. He did have discussions with news management on this matter.

Senator ABETZ: But did he apologise?

Mr Scott: I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: If not, why not? Is it correct that he tweeted: 'The News Ltd fight-back has begun. To prevent any sideways attacks on my program I am ceasing to tweet.'

Mr Scott: I do not have a copy of that.

Senator ABETZ: Would you can check up on that please, because I think we agreed from last estimates that there was not a News Ltd fight-back but that it was in fact his being referred to ABC's use of social media policy, which he had breached. Would you take on notice please whether he has apologised, whether he was counselled and whether he did tweet that which I have just read into the *Hansard*.

I asked about Mr Lowenstein in Question No. 139, and we were told there are no current plans for Mr Lowenstein to appear. I asked this in October but I note that, on 18 December, Mr Lowenstein was on The Drum. What this indicates to me is that the answer you provided to me was clearly out of date and out of time. Can you confirm that Mr Lowenstein is now no longer being hired for the purposes of ABC commentary?

Mr Scott: He was never an employee, Senator, we should make it clear.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, we know that.

Mr Scott: We talked about his being hired for commentary. He was never an employee. The fact that a person appears on an ABC program does not mean that the ABC endorses their comments or their views. I will find out if there are any further plans for his engagement.

Answer:

The ABC determined that Mr Campbell's tweets constituted a breach of the ABC's Social Media Policy. He was formally counselled. Senior ABC management made contact with Mr Abbott's Chief of Staff to apologise for the breach. The tweet which referred to a News Ltd fight back was made by Mr Campbell prior to management pursuing the policy breach.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

In relation to Mr Lowenstein, the ABC has no formal plans in place to use Mr Lowenstein on a regular or ongoing basis. Like many other commentators, we run pieces from Mr Lowenstein from time to time.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 2

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 7 (11/02/2013)

Topic: ABC Redundancies

Senator Bilyk asked:

Senator BILYK: Okay. There are going to be 15 redundancies—is that correct?

Mr Scott: That is the way it looks now.

Senator BILYK: Are there going to be any redeployments besides the one?

Mr Scott: I just need to check on that. I think that is including redeployment, but I would need to check on that.

Senator BILYK: Originally I was informed that those redeployments were only going to be for six weeks. Is that still the case?

Mr Scott: I would have to check on that.

Senator BILYK: Okay, so if could you take all that on notice. I am interested in who knew and what the timing was of the processes that led up to these decisions. I have had conflicting information on who knew what when with regard to the closure of the production unit. Are you able to give us a chronological order?

Mr Scott: I can provide them to you but, as I think we said in the inquiry the other day, the final sign-off on the intent of the organisation needs to come to me, so recommendations come to me and final sign-off needs to happen with me. I had been overseas, actually, so my sign-off did not happen until I think the day before I went to Hobart to address the staff.

Senator BILYK: Okay. If you could supply on notice who made those recommendations and on what dates, I would appreciate that.

Answer:

Following consultation, seventeen staff were formally notified of redundancy. Of the eleven ABC Television staff notified of redundancy, four chose redeployment and seven staff accepted a redundancy. Six ABC Resources staff volunteered for redundancy.

Affected Television staff in Tasmania were provided with three redeployment opportunities that became available at different times within the consultation process – a Television Producer position, a News Producer position and an Ignite Director position in ABC Resources. These were ongoing positions.

One Television staff member will be redeployed to the TV Producer role. Of the remaining three Television staff seeking redeployment, none have indicated an interest in the News Producer position or Ignite Director role in ABC Resources.

If no suitable alternative employment is found for the three remaining Television staff currently in the redeployment period, they will be notified of redundancy following the completion of redeployment in early April 2013.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Regarding the timing of the decision to close the Tasmanian unit, in its Television Production Strategy 2011-2013, the ABC noted that the system for supplying resources and staffing for productions will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The ABC constantly reviews its production units around the country to look for ways to achieve efficiencies. The Television Production Strategy also stated that television commissioning in Tasmania would depend on the audience response to the *Auction Room* series.

The Managing Director was briefed and there were discussions about programming options over the course of 2012. Ultimately, a decision was taken to end the program.

The final business case for the proposed changes to Tasmanian television production was sent to the Managing Director on Thursday 15 November 2012. At that time he was overseas on business and returned on the Monday 19 November 2012. The Managing Director signed the business case on Monday 19 November 2012, therefore approving the proposal to be presented to affected staff and the unions. The affected staff were advised in person and by email about the proposal on Tuesday 20 November. The affected unions were also advised in writing on Tuesday 20 November.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 3

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 8 (11/02/2013)

Topic: ABC complaints

Senator Williams asked:

Senator WILLIAMS: Mr Scott, in answer to a question on notice from the October estimates you told me that since 2010 ABC Audience and Consumer Affairs had received 39 complaints relating to program content. Are you able to tell me how many and what was the nature of the complaints that related to ABC New England North West?

Mr Scott: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Of the 39 complaints identified over the two year period which were about editorial bias in ABC regional radio, one was in relation to ABC New England North West.

The complaint was expressed in very broad terms and was about a presenter's personal presentation style and included the claim that the presenter was "bent on her political views".

Given the lack of detail, the complaint was not investigated by Audience and Consumer Affairs; it was referred to the Radio division to clarify the concerns directly with the complainant.

ABC Radio contacted the complainant to note the concerns raised and advised that the complainant's views had been passed on to the program team. The complainant was also advised of the availability of a formal investigation if they could provide further detail regarding the relevant content.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 4

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 11-12 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Fixed-State Elections for State and Territory Parliaments

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: And in respect of fixed-state elections for state and territory parliaments that often occur, what process does the ABC adopt there in the establishment of a review committee?

Mr Scott: Let me come back to you on notice around that. But, again, it is an identification of a window around the issuing of the writs, but I will come back and confirm that.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Was the review committee for the Western Australian state election established prior to the issuing of the writs?

Mr Scott: I would have to check on that.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: In terms of the treatment of Independents in relation to equal time, are you able to advise, Mr Scott, as to how the ABC applies those terms?

Mr Scott: Look, we do have detailed guidelines. For minor parties, it is to do with the performance in previous elections, their performance in a number of opinion polls. There is a format that we follow and I am happy to provide you with the details of that on notice.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. In terms of the commissioning of the external supplier to undertake the external count, when does that usually occur?

Mr Scott: Again, I will take that on notice.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Presumably, given the process kicks in from the issuing of the writs, it has to occur prior to the issuing of the writs.

Mr Scott: Again, I will check that and let you know.

Answer:

The ABC convenes an Election Coverage Review Committee (ECRC) for each federal, state and territory election. The ECRC is comprised of representatives from all relevant Divisions. In state and territory jurisdictions where the election date is fixed, the process for establishing the ECRC generally commences about a month in advance of the issue of the writs. The Managing Director appoints the ECRC chair who then seeks nominations from all relevant ABC Divisions.

Yes, the review committee for the Western Australian state election was established prior to the issuing of the writs.

As set out in the ABC statement of policy regarding Allocation of Free Broadcast Time to Political Parties During Election periods, the ABC Board has determined that major and minor parties are eligible for free election broadcast time.

Independents are not eligible for free election broadcast time.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The treatment of Independents is explained in the ABC's most recent guidance note for the WA Election 2013, which is also publicly accessible:

The ABC – in its allocation of free broadcast time and its general news and information coverage – strives for balanced treatment for the major parties over the course of the campaign, but this does not require equal treatment across all candidates, including independents and those from minor parties.

The broad principles behind the allocation of free broadcast time are:

- the bulk of the time is given to the parties which, if successful, would be in a position to form government; and
- the criteria to determine time given to minor or new parties deal not just with existing representation but also consider the party's degree of formal participation in the election (seats contested) and support state-wide (polls). For details, see ABC Board's policy statement: *Allocation of Free Broadcast Time to Political Parties during Election Periods*.

As a public broadcaster, the ABC views the allocation of free time from a state-wide perspective, rather than from a local electorate perspective. Independent members and candidates are quintessentially locals, whose fortunes – unlike those of parties – are determined within the boundaries of a single electorate.

Minor party candidates and Independents may of course be newsworthy. Leaving to one side the free broadcast time issue, in approaching election coverage in news and information programs, ABC staff are advised to determine coverage of minor parties and independents according to news value, and to provide coverage that is proportionate to the role of minor parties and independents in the campaign or in particular issues before the electorate.

The ABC Board's policy statement and the WA Election 2013 guidance note can be accessed here: <http://about.abc.net.au/how-the-abc-is-run/what-guides-us/election-coverage-review-committee-ecrc/>.

The ABC commissions an external supplier to provide share-of-voice data for coverage on the major ABC platforms of the candidates and party officials. With fixed date elections, the ABC usually commissions the supplier at least a month in advance of the issue of the writs. The external share-of-voice count usually runs from the day the writs are issued until the close of polling day.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 5

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 22-23 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Formal share of voice areas

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: I want to go back to balance in coverage in the pre-election environment. You have indicated the ABC's approach—that it is going to be strictly the common-sense test in relation to the application of when writs are issued. Prior to the issuing of writs in terms of balancing airtime et cetera, what policies are applied to try to give some level of balance—

Senator BIRMINGHAM: In particular I ask in relation to the Radio National breakfast program over the summer break from mid-December until late January where Ms Gillard had a 20-minute interview, Senator Bob Carr had two interviews of five and 11 minutes— .

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Ms Roxon had an eight-minute interview, Chris Bourke from ACT Labor had an eight-minute interview, Mr Green from Tasmania was on for six minutes—

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Senator Milne and Senator Ludlam were both on—

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Mr Oakeshott and Mr Windsor were both on, but Mr Hockey was the sole coalition spokesperson.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: what efforts does the ABC make to get balance in this regard?

.....

Senator BIRMINGHAM: On notice, Mr Scott, could you look at that and at least address the issue of pre the issuing of the writs and pre the formal share of voice areas coming into play. Perhaps, Senator Conroy, you could just tell the committee whether you have ever declined an ABC interview.

Senator Conroy: I am just trying to think.

CHAIR: Just hold on. Is this a serious question?

Senator BIRMINGHAM: I am interested in the answer.

Senator Conroy: I do get invites to come on *AM* and a range of the programs. Occasionally I do, but I probably go on more times than not in terms of invitations and refusals, unlike Mr Abbott, who goes on once a year just so he can say he has been on once a year. However, this is unlike Malcolm Turnbull. You try to stop him going on TV shows, but Mr Turnbull never has trouble getting on the ABC. I know that does irk you, but Mr Turnbull never has trouble going on the ABC.

Answer:

The ABC's Editorial Policies apply to its content at all times. In accordance with the Editorial Policies, *RN Breakfast* aims to address a broad range of issues from a diversity of perspectives and a diversity of sources, including politicians.

Over the full December/January period there were relatively few political interviews. Politicians appearing on the program in this period were:

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- **Labor** - Julia Gillard, Bob Carr, Nicola Roxon, Anthony Albanese, Mark Dreyfus, Chris Bourke, John Robertson and John Faulkner;
- **Coalition** - Joe Hockey, Greg Hunt, Paul Neville, Barry O'Farrell;
- **Greens** - Christine Milne and Sarah Hanson Young; and
- **Independents**, Tony Windsor and Kerry Finch.

The interviews covered a broad range of issues including: calls for reform of NSW Labor, natural disasters, international issues such as Syria, Davos and North Korea, the Doha Climate Conference, energy reforms, Australia's debt levels, the NDIS, the appropriateness of Australia Day, Gonski Report and the announcement of the Federal Election.

It was appropriate to speak to the Foreign Minister, Senator Carr, on three occasions given the currency of international issues over the summer. RN *Breakfast* contacted Shadow Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on one occasion but she was on leave.

While no formal records were maintained, the program advises a number of calls were made to other politicians but many were on leave over the holiday period.

RN *Breakfast* has a long standing request for interview with the Federal Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 6

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 23 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Formal share of voice areas

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: I would just like to lead on from that and ask Mr Scott: what is the number of times that Mr Turnbull has appeared on all platforms of the ABC over the last, say, 12 months?

Senator Conroy: Compared to anybody else.

Senator SINGH: Compared to anyone else.

Mr Scott: I am not sure if we keep—

Senator SINGH: You were saying you kept a diary.

Senator Conroy: You just said that.

Mr Scott: Let me be clear. We keep that diary during the election campaign proper, so for three or four weeks.

Senator SINGH: Right. Perhaps you could take it on notice.

Mr Scott: Happy to.

Senator SINGH: On top of that, could we have who is the next highest after Malcolm Turnbull that has appeared on all platforms in the last 12 months.

Senator Conroy: And compared to Tony Abbott.

Senator SINGH: Yes.

Mr Scott: I will see if it is easy for us to extract that data from our systems, but I do not think we actually keep an inventory or a log of political appearances.

Senator SINGH: Of course. See how you go.

Senator Conroy: I am sure you have some information on this, Mr Scott.

Answer:

Given the number of appearances, the ABC does not keep a log of appearances by individuals on-air, whether that be stand alone interviews, doorstops, speeches, media conferences or written quotes. This would be an extremely time-consuming administrative burden with no editorial benefit.

During election campaigns, formal “share of voice” counts are recorded as tool and a guide to ensure appropriate coverage of the campaign, but this is not necessary to ensure impartiality at other times.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 7

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 17 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Tasmanian Film Archival Footage

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Mr Scott, is it true that the ABC is centralising the Tasmanian film archival footage?

Mr Scott: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware of that. Can I say broadly that the issues involved with archive management and records management are significant for us. If you go back 15 or 20 years, at every, say, local radio station we had all the cassettes and all the records. What we have done is digitise a lot of that.

Senator SINGH: Yes.

Mr Scott: Part of the advantage of digitising is that it allows distribution all around the country, including our 60 local radio stations. But, on the specifics of what is happening in Tasmania, I will have to take that on notice and come back to you.

Senator SINGH: On top of that, could we actually have a breakdown of what is going on in other states as well in relation to film archival footage and its location?

Mr Scott: Yes.

Answer:

The ABC started centralising its film archive several years ago so that the material could be stored safely in custom designed, climactically controlled storage vaults in Sydney. It is not feasible to maintain suitable storage or telecine facilities in each state. The Tasmanian film collection is the last of the state collections to be moved to Sydney.

- The Brisbane collection moved to Sydney in 2007
- The Perth collection was moved to the Perth National Archives in 2008
- The Adelaide collection moved to Sydney in 2009
- As space permits, the Melbourne collection will move to Sydney
- There are no film collections in Canberra or Darwin.

The Tasmania Film Collection consists of 3700 cans of 16mm film which are moving to Sydney. Hobart archives will still house and manage the 9109 videotapes in the collection, the digital archive of over 550 1" videotapes and the digital news collection of 8.26 TB of Tasmanian news programs, stories and clips.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 8

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 17-18 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Tasmanian Film Archival Footage

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: But how would everyone around the country know what they are looking for? It is the expertise of people in, say, Tasmania or WA or South Australia that have the history, the knowledge and the heritage of that film archival footage that are connected to the personalities, to the people that have been filmed. If you take that and put it in a vault in Sydney, centralising again another part of Tasmania to Sydney, how is that of benefit? From what I take from the answer you have just given me, it is another cost saving measure. So this is about cost again.

Mr Scott: No, I don't think so but I am happy to come back on notice to you.

Answer:

The ABC Archive in Hobart remains a key point of contact for information about ABC content produced in Tasmania. However, the ABC does not rely on personal memory for archived material. All footage is viewed, catalogued and shot-listed into archive software, which then allows the footage to be accessed from anywhere in the country.

If there is a request for film material stored in Sydney, the film will be technically inspected, best quality components identified, cleaned, audio and image synched, then telecined and digitised. These facilities and the film handling expertise is not available in all states therefore a central location allows the best preservation opportunity for the film material.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 9

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 18 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Tasmanian Film Archival Footage

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Okay. If there is that decision made to centralise film archival footage to Sydney or Melbourne—I presume it is Sydney though as everything seems to be going more to Sydney with the ABC these days—will there be some kind of business case done or prepared for such a proposal?

Mr Scott: Let me take that on notice.

Senator SINGH: If so, can the committee have a copy of that as well. Finally, my question, Mr Scott, is in relation to the closure of the Tasmanian production unit. I think we have canvassed it a lot over recent times. Could you provide the committee with what is the budget of that production unit and therefore what the cost saving would be for the ABC and also where then those funds will be reallocated?

Mr Scott: Yes, we will take it and come back to you on that.

Senator SINGH: I understand from the inquiry we have been going through that the CPSU provided information to the committee that the budget was \$2.7 million, so I am surprised that you would not know what the budget is and you are going to have to take that on notice today.

Answer:

A proposal to move the Tasmanian film assets was prepared in September 2012. This document was developed in conjunction with the local staff in Hobart. The primary benefit of moving the archival material to Sydney is that it ensures the material is stored in the best possible conditions in order to reduce its deterioration. In Sydney, the material will also be managed by film preservation staff who have the specialist skills and equipment required to handle, prepare and digitise the film.

The proposal is attached (see Appendix A).

In relation to the budget for the Tasmanian television production unit, the actual expenditure in the year was 2011–12 was \$2.03 million.

As a result the anticipated savings in 2012–13 budget, excluding redundancy costs, will be approximately \$2 million. This excludes any potential costs associated with outside broadcast currently not commissioned such as a Q&A from Hobart. Additionally, the proposal announced in November 2012 has since been amended to retain 1 FTE staff member, which reduces the anticipated savings from the initially projected savings to be \$1.92 million (excluding any potential costs associated with outside broadcasts currently not commissioned).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Appendix A

Hobart Film Move – Benefits and Workflows

Prepared by		Date	11/09/2012	Revision no	V 1.0
PROJECT TITLE – Hobart Film Move					

Project Objective	To transport the 3,400 film cans currently stored in Hobart to Sydney for storage and digitisation. Note- Film cards will remain in Hobart
Background	The primary reason for moving the collection to Sydney is to reduce the risk of deterioration to this significant collection, by improving storage conditions. Relocation of the collection to Sydney will also significantly improve timeframes around access to items in the collection and facilitate an eventual preservation project to select, digitise and consign the film.
Benefits	Transporting the Hobart film collection to Sydney will realise the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased standardisation of ABC film preservation processes; • Improved access to Hobart film as a result of faster turnaround time for requests, due to close proximity to telecine and more staff available to handle requests; • Improved storage conditions; • Specialist Film Room staff dedicated to working with the ABC film collections and trained in film preparation • Film can be consigned straight from Sydney office to NAA after it has been digitised.
Turnaround Time	Moving the Hobart collection to Ultimo will improve turn around times for Hobart film requests. General turn around times will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate requests – 48 hours, allowing for overnight delivery • Sydney requests - 24 hours

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Proposed Research Workflows	
Hobart & Interstate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher checks TARA, MAS, FilemakerPro Film Database and the film cards • If a record for film is located, the Researcher contacts the Sydney Film Room via email or phone • Researcher provides Sydney will information about what is required, client details, cost centre and time frames • Film room staff retrieve film components from the vaults and prepare the film for telecine • Film Room telecine film into MAS and the MAS number is entered into the Film Database. • Urgent requests- Sent to client via relays • Semi urgent - A digital betacam tape will be sent to the researcher interstate. • Every couple of months a batch of transferred content will be transferred in MAS to the home State Hobart.
Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher finds film number through TARA/Filemaker or Hobart researcher • If a record for film is located, the Researcher contacts the Sydney Film Room via email or phone • Researcher provides Sydney will information about what is required, client details, cost centre and time frames • Film room staff retrieve film components from the vaults and prepare the film for telecine • Film Room telecine film into MAS and the MAS number is entered into the Film Database. • Film room finds film and arranges film to be telecined into MAS and marks that file to be transferred to Hobart • Researcher retrieves from MAS/or file or tape • Every couple of months a batch of transferred content will be transferred in MAS to the home State Hobart.
Missing Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a film component cannot be located Sydney Film room will liaise with Hobart staff in order to problem solve. If the film cannot be located databases and film cards will be updated.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 10

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 19 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Annual Report Title – *Now more than ever*

Senator Cameron asked:

CHAIR: I was going to ask you about your annual report, which is called *Now more than ever*. I did want to get some idea why the ABC is needed now more than ever, because I assume that is what it means in the era of convergence and the digital economy. Could you provide some more details on why the ABC is needed more than ever given the discussion we had with Senator Abetz about funding.

Mr Scott: I am happy to speak to that now and provide you with more detail on notice.

Answer:

The 2011–12 ABC Annual Report theme of ‘Now More Than Ever’ was used to identify and illustrate the ABC’s response to the disruptive impact of changing industry conditions and audience consumption habits. The theme sets out, through examples of ABC content and initiatives, how the ABC is adapting to these changes and meeting the needs of audiences.

The following points explain the theme in more detail.

Australian content

Now more than ever, there is a world of content available to audiences. Although this connects Australians to the rest of the world and increases choice, the global can easily overwhelm the local.

Now more than ever, Australian audiences need a strong local voice and clear Australian perspective.

The ABC continues to contribute to a sense of national identity and reflect the cultural diversity of the Australian community. For example, in 2011-12 the ABC premiered the critically acclaimed Australian drama series *The Slap*, which featured a unique examination of the culturally diverse nature of modern Australia. See <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/theslap/>

News and information

Now more than ever, “news” is available everywhere and is being collected by everyone. It is not just traditional news gatherers: anyone can capture and communicate information about what is happening in the world.

Now more than ever, audiences need to know who to turn to for news and current affairs which they can trust.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The ABC stands alone as a provider of reliable, independent and balanced news and current affairs. The ABC is a credible and authoritative guide in the crowded news market. For example, in 2012 ABC news provided extensive rolling coverage of the ALP leadership contest across radio, television, online and social media. Millions of Australians turned to the ABC for timely, accurate and authoritative coverage and explanation of developments.

Changing consumer habits

Now more than ever, there is a massive choice of platforms, devices, and technology.

Now more than ever, audiences expect to access whatever content they want, wherever they are, in whatever way suits them.

The ABC is leading the way as an innovator in the media space.

Children's entertainment

Now more than ever, parents are concerned about what their children are being exposed to in the media.

Now more than ever, audiences need safe, fun and educational children's content.

The ABC continues to provide high quality children's content - now on dedicated platforms, available all the time and on demand.

Emergency broadcasting

Now more than ever, there is an understanding of the value and importance of preparing for emergency situations, broadcasting through emergencies and participating in the recovery process.

Now more than ever, Australians rely on the ABC as its emergency broadcaster. The ABC is meeting this crucial need in new and innovative ways. For example, the ABC's 'Mapping Emergencies' trial explored how digital resources can improve people's access to vital warnings and alerts, using maps to locate situation updates specific to an emergency. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/emergency/map/>

As a further example, ABC Open's Aftermath project provided a multi-media platform for disaster affected communities to document their experiences as they rebuilt their lives. Members of the public followed these stories and also interacted by sharing experiences and photos of their own. See <http://open.abc.net.au/projects/aftermath-08vh8ac>

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 11

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: The Science Show

Senator Abetz asked:

Can the ABC advise where the Audience and Consumer Affairs report regarding *The Science Show* broadcast on 24th November 2012 as referred by Mr. Scott, can be publically accessed.

Answer:

ABC Audience and Consumer Affairs publishes online summaries of all complaints that are upheld or resolved. No complaints about the episode of *The Science Show* aired on 24 November 2012 were upheld or resolved; the broadcast was found to be in keeping with the ABC Editorial Policies, which state that material which is likely to cause harm or offence must be justified by the editorial context. Audience and Consumer Affairs found that when taken in context the comments by *Science Show* presenter Robyn Williams did not equate climate change skeptics to paedophiles. The rhetorical questions put by the presenter were used specifically to grab the listeners' attention and were not intended to be taken literally. Accordingly no public summary of Audience and Consumer Affairs decision was published.

The ABC does not publish summaries of complaints which are not upheld given the large volume of correspondence that falls into this category. Preparing and publishing summaries of complaints which are not upheld or which are resolved would be onerous and would require a significant investment of time and resources. In the interests of transparency and accountability, the ABC invests its limited resources in publishing the results of upheld investigations. The ABC notes, however, that all complainants who request a response to their complaint are contacted by the ABC and the reasons for the 'not upheld' finding are fully explained.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 12

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: ABC Social Media Policy

Senator Abetz asked:

Can the ABC confirm employees or contractors have breached ABC social media policy on social media platforms since January 1st 2010? If so; since this time, how many have breached the policy regarding commentary on;

- a. Labor politicians
- b. Greens politicians
- c. Coalition politicians

Answer:

Yes.

- a. 3
- b. 0
- c. 3

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 13

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the ABC appealed the decision of the Australian Information Commissioner dated Jan 6th 2013 in regards to the Herald Sun FOI request?

Answer:

The ABC is not aware of any decision of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner dated 6 January 2013 which affects the ABC.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 14

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Election period

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What is the financial cost associated with monitoring equal time?
- 2) Has the ABC contracted an external supplier to provide the external count? If not, when does it expect to do so?
- 3) Has the ABC requested any legal advice from in house counsel on the issues of the beginning of the election period?
- 4) Has the ABC requested any legal advice from outside counsel on the issue of the beginning of the election period?
- 5) On what legal basis has the ABC board and/or management determined that the election period, as defined by the ABC Act, does not begin until the writ is issued?
- 6) Has the interpretation of the election period defined in the ABC Act been considered by the ABC Board and/or Chair? If so, please provide copies of information provided to facilitate such considerations.

Answer:

- 1) During election periods, the ABC commissions an external supplier to monitor the share-of-voice count. The financial cost for monitoring depends on the duration, size and scale of the election. By way of example, for the 2013 West Australia state election, the ABC spent \$29,000 on share-of-voice count and analysis.
- 2) The ABC has not yet commissioned an external supplier to provide the share-of-voice count for the 2013 Federal Election. With fixed date elections, the ABC usually commissions the supplier at least a month in advance of the issue of the writs.
- 3) No.
- 4) No.
- 5) No interpretation is necessary since, although there is a definition of "election period" in section 79A of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*, this definition is not used in the operative provisions and is therefore irrelevant to the operation of the rest of the section. See, for example, section 79A(1).
- 6) No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 15

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Tasmanian Production facilities

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What discussions or representations has the ABC had with Minister Conroy regarding the closure of its Tasmanian production facilities?
- 2) Is the ABC aware of media reports suggesting Minister Conroy is considering government intervention on this matter? Is such an intervention possible?

Answer:

- 1) The ABC does not disclose the subject matter of conversations with the Minister.
- 2) Questions regarding the Minister's intention would be more properly directed to the Minister.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 16

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all entertainment expenditures above \$10,000.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, the following items of expenditure are relevant to the Senator's question:

Premiere screening of *Redfern Now* in Redfern on 30 October 2012 - \$20,000

Local Radio Awards dinner in Sydney on 4 October 2012 - \$13,000.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 17

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Electricity

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) By how much does the ABC expect its electricity costs to exceed its budget in this financial year?
- 2) What is the anticipated budget?
- 3) How much has this increased by?

Answer:

For the financial year to 31 January 2013:

Budget	\$6,126,700
Forecast	\$7,218,561
Difference	\$1,091,861 <i>17.8% (increase over budget)</i>

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 18

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Jon Faine

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Is the ABC aware of Jon Faine interview with the Prime Minister on the 23rd of January in which he claimed the likely winner of the Israeli election would 'oppose the peace process'?
- 2) On what grounds did Mr Faine conclude that the 'likely coalition' would oppose the peace process?
- 3) Does the ABC think it reasonable to make such sweeping comments about such a sensitive foreign policy issue?

Answer:

- 1) Yes.
- 2) In the interview with the Prime Minister on 23 January, Jon Faine posed the question: "The coalition likely to be elected in the new Knesset in Israel looks like it is going to oppose the peace process. What does that do to our relationship with Israel?"

The speculative nature of the question was evident through the use of the terms "likely to" and "looks like" and it was informed by published opinion polls and widespread international media coverage anticipating the election would result in the formation of a right wing coalition featuring a party or parties with a platform explicitly exposed to the peace process endorsed by the Australia Government.

- 3) The ABC considers the question, as asked, was reasonable in context.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 19

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Q&A ABC TV

Senator Birmingham asked:

On September 17, Q&A (ABC TV) hosted a panel discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and invited controversial anti-Zionist historian Ilan Pappé.

- a. Do you think it was appropriate that Q&A dedicated an episode to discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), which prevented religiously observant Jews from participating?
- b. The ABC has reportedly indicated that September 17 was chosen to suit Ilan Pappé's schedule. Given the concerns of this date amongst the Jewish community was it appropriate to simply yield to Mr Pappé's schedule?

Answer:

a-b Professor Pappé is a significant and controversial voice in the discussion around the politics of Israel and the Middle East. In line with the ABC Editorial Policies, *Q&A* seeks to provide a diverse range of opinion and information on contentious and significant issues such as these.

Given that Professor Pappé's views are controversial, the panel was carefully constructed to give appropriate weight to alternative perspectives. Professor Pappé's schedule for his visit to Australia meant that he was only available to appear on that particular program, which fell within an important Jewish holiday – Rosh Hashanah.

The ABC ensured that two strong advocates for Israel – Irving Wallach and Greg Sheridan – joined the panel that night and provided ample counterpoint to Professor Pappé's views.

Q&A acknowledged on-air the issues caused by the coincidence with Rosh Hashanah and included comments and questions from both critics and supporters of Israel during the discussion.

The ABC did not intend any disrespect in the timing of the program. Other discussions have also coincided with important religious holidays (for example the debate between Cardinal Pell and Richard Dawkins on Easter Monday).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 20

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Al Jazeera

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Is ABC aware of Allegations of bias in Al Jazeera English news coverage such as minimising the plight of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and the Shi'ite protests in Bahrain as well as ongoing anti-Israel bias and promotion of Hamas?
- 2) Is ABC aware that such concerns have been highlighted by recent incidents where journalists have resigned from Al Jazeera English citing lack of editorial independence?
- 3) Should ABC use Al Jazeera news coverage in light of these alleged biases and the perception that Al Jazeera English is not editorially independent?
- 4) What steps and safeguards has ABC taken to ensure that the Al Jazeera English news footage shown provides an editorially independent news story?

Answer:

- 1) The ABC is aware that, like all broadcasters, Al Jazeera faces accusations of bias and poor performance from time to time.
- 2) The ABC does not have sufficient details to make a comment on this matter. However, Al Jazeera is often praised as a highly respected and award-winning channel with high quality editorial content. It surpassed both the BBC and Sky News to win the Royal Television Society's News Channel of the Year award for 2012. It has also won a Peabody Award for its coverage of the Arab Spring, a Columbia University Journalism Award, a number of awards from the Association of International Broadcasters and an Emmy nomination.
- 3) These issues aside, considerations relating to bias are taken seriously by the ABC. To this end, the ABC does not rely solely on news from one source in its international coverage. Al Jazeera is just one of several international sources (including ABC correspondents) that the ABC relies on to produce coverage which is as balanced and comprehensive as possible.
- 4) The steps and safeguards in place to ensure editorially appropriate coverage includes regularly monitoring coverage across different broadcasters and ensuring consistency and clarity wherever possible.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 21

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What steps and strategies has ABC adopted to ensure balanced coverage of issues involving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
- 2) I understand that ABC subscribes to the perspective that “balance over time” is acceptable? If so, isn’t this position likely to result in biased reports that do not provide the viewer with a balanced understanding of the conflict? Doesn’t this position allow for a lack of balance in individual stories?

Answer:

- 1) All ABC programming is required to adhere to the ABC’s Editorial Policies and Code of Practice, which set high standards for editorial content, particularly in relation to accuracy and impartiality. All ABC journalists are regularly trained in the application of the Editorial Policies. Like all of the ABC’s international news and current affairs coverage, reporting about the Middle East is subject to scrutiny from producers and sub-editors to ensure compliance with Editorial Policies. Beyond our own direct reporting, the ABC also draws news content from a range of sources including Reuters, Associated Press, Agence France Presse, BBC and Al Jazeera to ensure to ensure a comprehensive and varied source of material.
- 2) The “perspective” referred to that “balance over time” is appropriate relates to the following section of the ABC’s Editorial Policies:

4.2 Present a diversity of perspectives so that, over time, no significant strand of thought or belief within the community is knowingly excluded or disproportionately represented.

This ensures, for example, that each new angle, development or announcement in a running story does not require all previous statements and views to be included, the result of which would be impractical and excessive.

However, this acknowledgement that balance needs to be considered over time does not preclude the importance of recognising when an individual story requires balancing comment. For example, the ABC’s Editorial Policies also state:-

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

5.3 Where allegations are made about a person or organisation, make reasonable efforts in the circumstances to provide a fair opportunity to respond.

That means, for example, that when a significant new assertion or allegation emerges from one side of an issue, it would normally be the case that an appropriate response is included.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 22

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

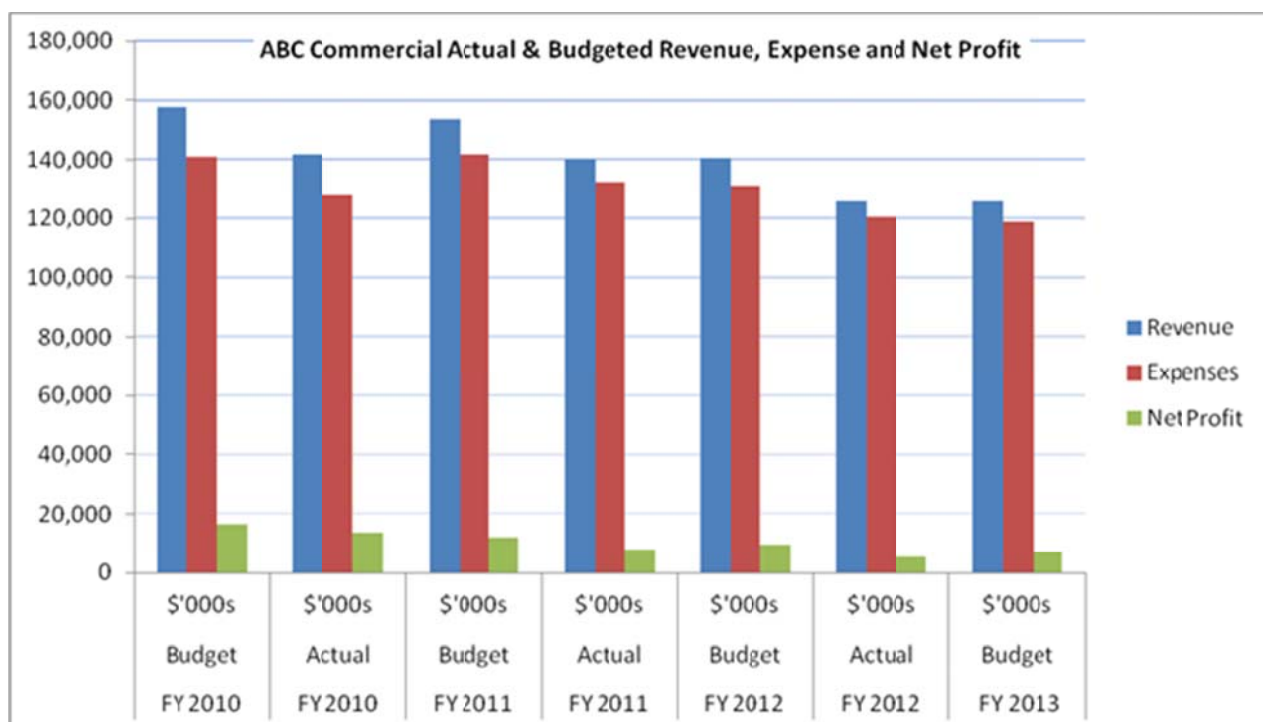
Topic: ABC Commercial

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Please detail total budgeted and actual revenue, expenses and the net profit result from ABC Commercial for each of the last 3 financial years and budgeted results for 2012-13.
- 2) Please detail the contribution of interest to revenue in each of these years.
- 3) Has the ABC undertaken an assessment of the profitability of each ABC store? If so, what was the outcome? Are there any plans for rationalisation?
- 4) How has the revenue base of ABC commercial varied over the last 3 years? Please provide data where possible (ie change of sales of DVDS, books, children's merchandise etc).
- 5) What revenue to ABC Commercial derive from online sales? How is this derived? How has it changed over the last 3 years?

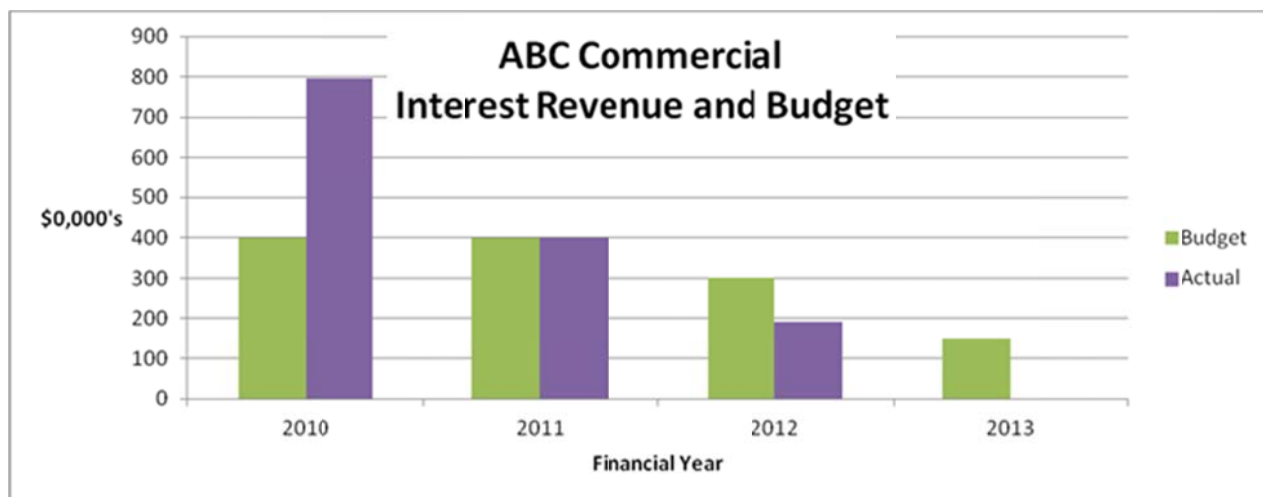
Answer:

1)



Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2)



3) ABC Retail monitors and addresses the performance of each shop location on a daily, weekly and monthly basis – with an annual assessment undertaken during the budgeting period for the following financial year. This assessment takes into consideration any projected increases in operating costs (such as rent increases) as well as a review of salaries, expenses and budgeted hours per shop.

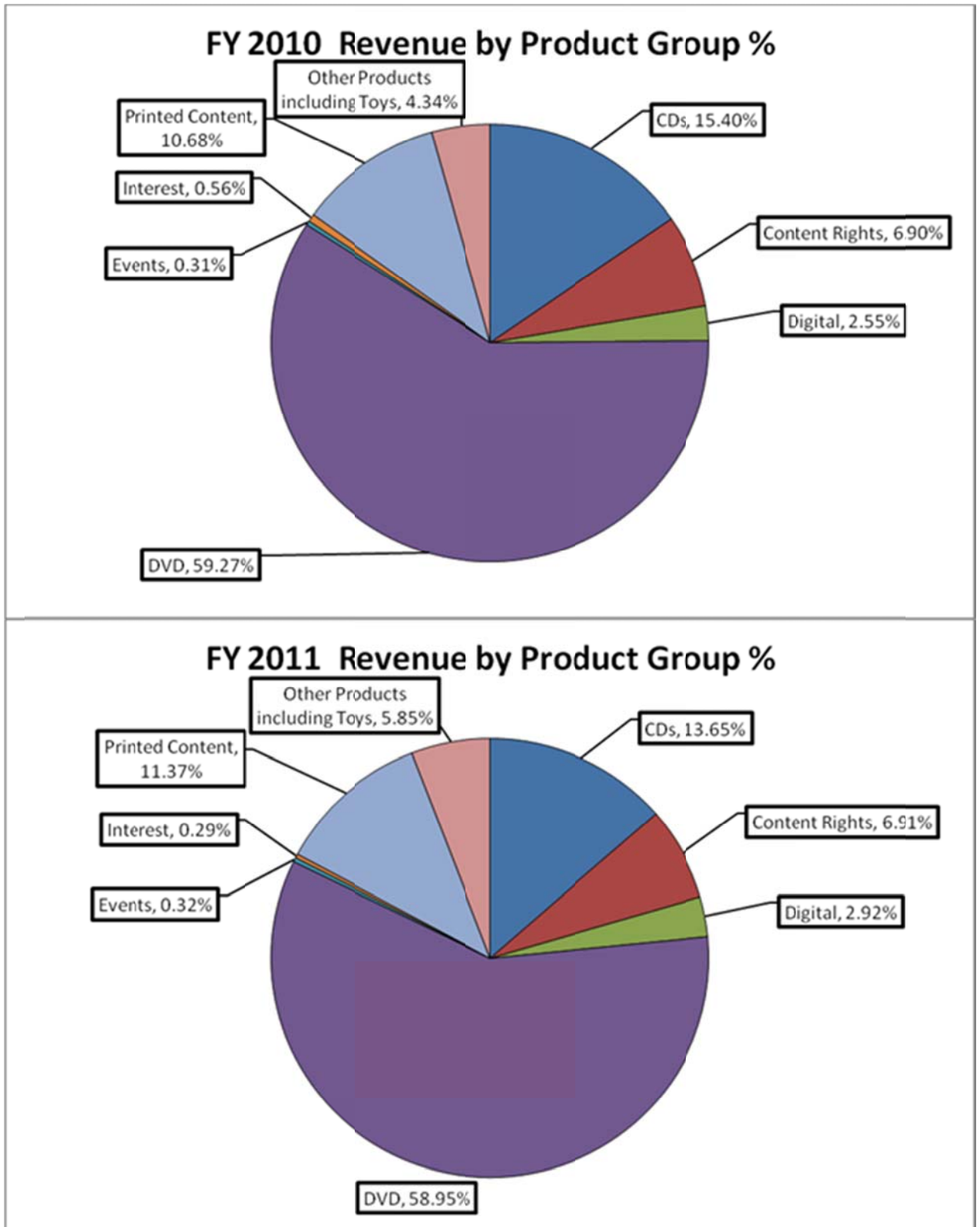
During any given lease term, ABC Retail reviews the viability of continuing or renewing a lease in that location. The following considerations are taken into account:

- Financial return based on the previous actual performance of the shop
- Current location of the shop within the shopping centre, and whether a relocation will provide greater opportunity for increased sales revenue
- Demographic analysis of the shopping centre catchment with specific regards to ABC viewer and listenership, and review of whether the demographic has changed or may change in the future
- The ability to reduce operating costs to increase trading profit
- Lease renewal options, possible rent reductions, relocation opportunities or lease incentives which may reduce the operating costs of a shop and increase its profitability without relying on top line growth
- The impact of continued trade or closure on the remaining business network, given each ABC Shop wears a percentage of Retail and Commercial Overheads.

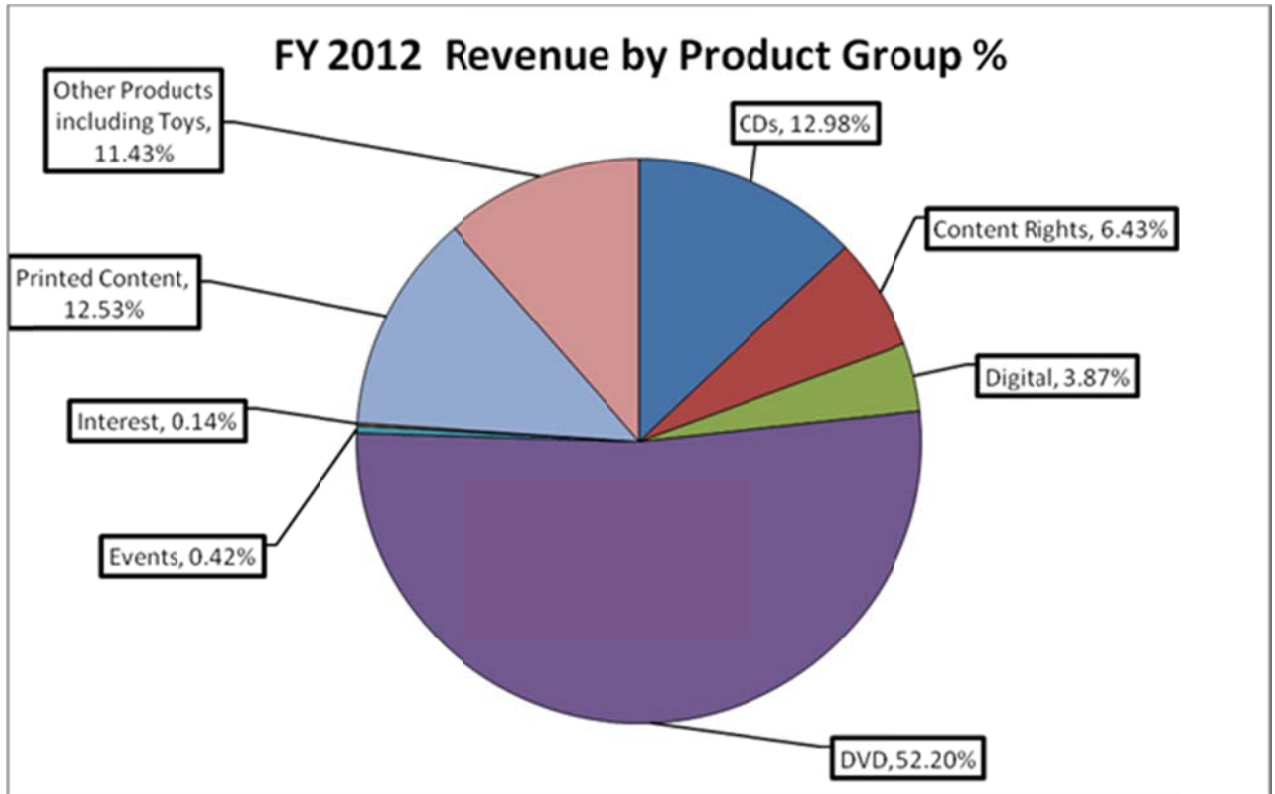
ABC Retail is presently reviewing the ongoing viability of a number of ABC Shops that have lease terms expiring within the next 12 months. These will be evaluated against their financial performance over their lease term with a view to the considerations outlined above.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

4)



Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation



5)



Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 23

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Cameron asked:

- 1) The ABC has advised the Senate that there were 266 Specified Task contract positions. Can the ABC please clarify what percentage of these 266 contracts are for staff backfilling purposes;
 - a) by Division; and
 - b) by classification.
- 2) The ABC has advised the Senate that there were 139 Fixed Term contract positions. The CPSU would like to know how many of these contracts are legitimate and how many are rollover contracts which should in fact be ongoing positions. Can the ABC please clarify for the identified 139 Fixed term contract positions:
 - a) The average duration of Fixed term contracts by Division;
 - b) How many positions have been on multiple Fixed term contracts by Division; and
 - c) The average number of fixed term contracts a position has had by Division.
- 3) Casual employment – we are trying to work out what percentage of casual employees fall into the category of the elusive ‘permanent casual’. The Information provided by the ABC regarding the number of non-ongoing staff as of 21 October 2012 is at around 25% of which the ABC has identified that there are 832 casual employees. The Unions have raised concerns that there are a high percentage of casual employees who are performing regular ongoing work in the ABC.
 - a) Of the 832 casual employees identified by the ABC for 2011-2012 how many have undertaken work for more than 6 months broken down by Division?
 - b) Given the high number of casual employees in production areas like Resources, Radio and News Divisions what processes are used by the ABC to:
 - I. Review casual workload and hours;
 - II. Identify long term casuals who are performing regular work.

Answer:

- 1) The ABC is unable to ascertain the reason for an engagement directly from its Human Resources reporting systems. A manual search and review would be required to answer this question and this would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 2) The ABC does not agree that all rollover contracts “should in fact be ongoing positions”. Clause 14.4.4 of the ABC Enterprise Agreement 2010-13 sets out the circumstances in which a rollover contract can be converted to an ongoing position:

“An employee who has been employed on two or more consecutive fixed term engagements may request in writing that the ABC consider whether their employment

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

should be converted to ongoing employment. Where it is demonstrated that the fixed term employment is not consistent with relevant case law considering the nature of fixed term employment, the ABC will offer to convert the employee to ongoing employment”.

a) Average duration of Fixed Term contracts by Division *

Data as at 21 Oct 2012

Division	No. of Days
ABC Commercial	123.7
ABC International	265.3
ABC Resources	124.1
Business Services	97.7
Communications Networks	240.0
Corporate Affairs	106.0
Editorial Policies	23.0
Innovation	161.5
Legal & Business Affairs	42.3
News	284.6
People & Learning	98.0
Radio	217.5
Technology	213.7
Television	318.6
ABC Average	239.5

** For the identified 139 Fixed Term contract positions as at 21 Oct 2012*

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

b) Number of positions on multiple Fixed Term contracts by Division *

Data as at 21 Oct 2012

Division	No. of Positions
ABC Commercial	1
ABC International	4
ABC Resources	7
Business Services	1
Communications Networks	1
Corporate Affairs	1
Editorial Policies	1
Innovation	2
Legal & Business Affairs	2
News	4
Radio	30
Technology	2
Television	30
Total	86

** For the identified 139 Fixed Term contract positions as at 21 Oct 2012*

c) Average number of Fixed term contracts per position by Division *

Data as at 21 Oct 2012

Division	No. of Contracts
ABC Commercial	1.5
ABC International	1.8
ABC Resources	1.6
Business Services	1.0
Communications Networks	1.0
Corporate Affairs	1.0
Editorial Policies	1.0
Innovation	1.0
Legal & Business Affairs	1.5
News	1.1
People & Learning	1.0
Radio	1.3
Technology	1.0
Television	1.3
ABC Average	1.3

** For the identified 139 Fixed Term contract positions as at 21 Oct 2012*

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

3)

- a) Number of Casual employees who have undertaken work for more than 6 months in 2011-12 by Division *

Data for the period 20 June 2011 - 17 June 2012

Division	No. of Employees
ABC Commercial	90
ABC International	6
ABC Resources	199
Business Services	8
Innovation	2
News	136
People & Learning	1
Radio	120
Technology	2
Television	9
Total	573

** Reflects the number of Casual employees who worked in 14 or more out of the 26 pay periods in the 2011/12 year, including non-consecutive engagements.*

- b) i) & ii)

Clause 14.6.2 of the ABC Enterprise Agreement 2010-13 defines a Casual employee as “an employee engaged to perform work on an intermittent basis or on a series of separate but unbroken periods for reasons that are unpredictable. Principles that may indicate casual employment include:

- the ABC can elect to offer employment on a particular day or days and when offered, the employee can elect to work;
- there is no certainty about the period over which employment of this type will be offered; and
- the engagement is characterised by informality, uncertainty, and irregularity.”

From time to time audits are undertaken by People & Learning to assess the employment patterns of casual employees. Such audits can be requested by the employee or the line manager, or are routinely undertaken as part of a review of a particular work area. Where it is demonstrated that the employment patterns are not consistent with the above mentioned principles for casual employment, the ABC will offer to convert the employee/s to ongoing employment.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 24

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: SBE Oct 2012 – QoN 153 - Use of Labour Hire in Content Services

Senator Cameron asked:

The questions raised regarding use of Labour Hire companies was to better contextualise particular situation in Content Services Department in the ABC by looking at the matter nationally. The ABC has confirmed that it does use Labour Hire companies in Content Services to obtain services specific to Information management. The unions believe that many of these positions should be ongoing. The union also believe that the ABC may be in breach of the procurement process because the amount contracted to at least one of the companies listed by the ABC (The One Umbrella Group) is in excess of the threshold amount.

Can the ABC please provide how many staff have been employed through Labour Hire agreements to perform work in Content Services:

- a) For 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012;
- b) What is the average length of time these individuals have undertaken work for the ABC;
- c) Reasons for using “for-hire staff” rather than advertising work as ongoing position in the ABC.
- d) Whether the ABC undertakes yearly contract arrangements for these Labour Hire companies used in Content Services;
- e) What costs associated with individual Labour Hire Companies used in Content Services over the last 5 years.

Answer:

- a) The ABC does not keep a centralised record of the number of staff employed through labour hire agreements to perform work in Content Services. The collation of that material would require a review of an extremely large number of invoices and would represent an undue diversion of resources and time.
- b) The average length of engagement for labour hire is approximately four months.
- c) Typically, for-hire staff are used to fill temporary and, generally, entry level vacancies where specific skill sets are required at short notice.

For Hire staff have also been used to backfill temporary vacancies due to temporary arrangements for parental leave, leave without pay, part-time work agreements and for some specific, ad hoc tasks such as preparing tapes for recycling or disposal. Temporary vacancies are advertised where time permits and where the vacancy is expected to be 6 months or more, as per the ABC’s Employment Agreement. When established on-going positions become vacant, and the on-going requirements and funding arrangements have been reviewed, positions are advertised. There are currently no agency staff filling on-going vacancies.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- d) The ABC has not undertaken yearly contract arrangements for labour hire companies used by Content Services. However a review of labour hire services rates is conducted from time to time and suitable rates negotiated with agencies to get the best service arrangements for the ABC. The ABC seeks services from those agencies known in the market place for specializing in information management professionals. Over the last few years the ABC has used services from at least three different agencies, always seeking the best match for the job from any source with the budget available for the work/positions required.
- e) Costs associated with individual labour hire companies used in Content Services over the last 5 years are as follows:
1. 2007/08 - \$382,000 (One Umbrella Group \$212,000, Zenith Management Services \$167,000, Other \$3,000);
 2. 2008/09 - \$336,000k (One Umbrella Group \$202,000, Zenith Management Services \$27,000, Acumen Human Capital \$97,000, Other \$10,000);
 3. 2009/10 - \$478,000 (One Umbrella Group \$383,000, Acumen Human Capital \$95,000);
 4. 2010/11 - \$552,000 (One Umbrella Group \$304,000, Acumen Human Capital \$248,000);
 5. 2011/12 - \$513,000 (One Umbrella Group \$318,000, Acumen Human Capital \$195,000).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 25

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 6 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Insiders - Mr Cassidy

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: Right. Any from her office, from the Labor Party about a hideous untruth that was spoken on *Insiders*, when Mr Barrie Cassidy referred to the Prime Minister establishing trust funds instead of slush funds? I am just wondering whether there was any activity between the Prime Minister's office and the ABC on that score?

Mr Scott: Not that I recall, Senator.

Senator ABETZ: Well, that is interesting because we know what happened to News Ltd when they accidentally referred to trust fund rather than slush fund. It was the 'hate media', and it became bigger than Ben Hur; yet, when the ABC does it it looks as though it passes through without comment.

Senator Conroy: You should not take statements made by former Senator Bob Brown and attribute them to anyone other than former Senator Bob Brown.

Senator ABETZ: You are the one engaged with this media inquiry, and Mr Finkelstein and others, Senator Conroy, so I would keep a relatively low profile, if I were you.

Senator Conroy: Only former Senator Bob Brown has used that phrase, as far as I am aware. The Prime Minister and I have not.

Senator ABETZ: But the ABC was not required to issue an apology for Mr Cassidy's error?

Mr Scott: I would have to check. You are asking me whether I received calls. I do not recall any contact, but—

Senator ABETZ: All right, anybody else in the ABC.

Mr Scott: We will check whether complaints were made.

Answer:

The ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs Division received three complaints from audience members about Mr Cassidy's reference to trust funds on the 11 November 2012 episode of *Insiders*.

The complaints were investigated by Audience and Consumer Affairs and the broadcast assessed against the ABC's editorial standards for accuracy.

The complaints were not upheld. Complainants were advised that Mr Cassidy's reference was a slip of the tongue during a live broadcast. The nature of the slush fund had been comprehensively covered on the program over a period of time and *Insiders* did not mislead its audience on the issue.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The reference was made in the introduction to a segment that went on the clearly establish that it was in fact a slush fund. An Editor's Note was added to the online version of the broadcast on 12 December 2012 which read: "the presenter incorrectly referred to the fund Julia Gillard set up on behalf of the AWU as a "trust fund". It was a slip of the tongue during a live program. The ABC understands that it was a slush fund and we have consistently referred to it as a slush fund."

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 26

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pg 8 (11/02/2013)

Topic: Election date

Senator Williams asked:

[**Senator WILLIAMS:** I was not here, I am sorry, when Senator Birmingham may have asked you this: now the election date has been called, is it a case of balanced timing from now until the election date, or does that come in when the writs are issued?

Mr Scott: I must say, unlike nearly all other broadcasters, we are covered by our editorial policies of fairness, balance and impartiality. They cover our journalism at all times. We do actually look pretty specifically at the share of voice. We do a share of voice count. We look at who has been on the air for what period of time. There are some limits to that because someone might get a very challenging interview. They may not view that absolutely as a positive but we do—

Senator Conroy: We have never had to challenge an interview on that.

Mr Scott: We do look at share of voice, but that is only going to start for us when the writs are issues. That is the standard practice for us.

Senator WILLIAMS: That balancing of time and reporting is between the Labor Party and coalition, is it?

Mr Scott: Yes. At times we take into account the other parties as well.

Senator WILLIAMS: So you take them into account.

Mr Scott: I believe so. I would have to check. We look at share of voice of the major parties.

Answer:

The ABC seeks to provide fair and impartial coverage at all times, not just during election campaigns. The ABC expects that its Editorial Policies will be upheld with particular care during election campaigns with the overarching aim of providing high quality coverage through:

- the reasoned application of news values;
- responsiveness to events and issues as and when they arise; and
- good-faith efforts fairly and accurately to obtain, scrutinise and convey the initiatives and responses of those vying for the electorate's confidence, especially those with a practical prospect of forming the next Government.

During an election campaign, the ABC commissions an external supplier to compile data about the amount of time occupied on ABC platforms by all candidates and official party spokespeople (including former party leaders) from all political parties contesting the election. Candidates' and party officials' comments are timed on radio and TV and counted as words of text online. This is what is known as share-of-voice data.

For the 2013 Federal Election, the external share-of-voice count will start from the day the writs are issued and run until the close of polling day.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The ABC does not use share-of-voice data in a strict mathematical way to determine balance or assess impartiality. Share-of-voice data is a useful tool for the ABC's Election Coverage Review Committee's weekly overview of how the ABC's coverage of a campaign is going. It serves as an indicator of who is appearing on ABC platforms, where, and for how long. If one party appears to be getting an apparently large or an apparently small amount of time on-air or space online, the reasons can be queried. Share-of-voice data must be interpreted with care, and if it is not it may mislead, for a number of reasons, including:

- time on-air or word counts online tell you nothing about what was discussed;
- duration says nothing about tone or context;
- some voices are more effective through brevity, and others lack power despite length;
- opportunities to appear on ABC platforms may be consciously declined by political professionals for their own reasons, or missed through no one's fault;
- incumbents naturally tend to get more time.

These factors, and the ABC's external monitoring more generally, are discussed in the Election Coverage Review Committee Chair's reports on the ABC's coverage of the 2007 and 2010 Federal Elections: <http://about.abc.net.au/how-the-abc-is-run/what-guides-us/election-coverage-review-committee-ecrc/>

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 27

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

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

Answer:

- 1) Ongoing Employees Recruited This Financial Year to Date - By Classification

Data as at 24 Feb 2013

Classification	Headcount
Administrative/Professional Band 3	6
Administrative/Professional Band 4	5
Administrative/Professional Band 5	6
Administrative/Professional Band 7	5
Administrative/Professional Band 8	3
Content Maker Band 2	3
Content Maker Band 3	3
Content Maker Band 4	6
Content Maker Band 5	15
Content Maker Band 6	6
Content Maker Band 7	3
Content Maker Band 8	5
Head Office Retail Manager Level 3	2
Senior Executive Band 1	2
Senior Executive Band 2	1
Senior Executive Band 3	3
Shop Assistant	7
Shop Manager Grade B	1
Shop Manager Grade C	4
Shop Manager Grade D	1
Technologist Band 5	2
Technologist Band 6	7
Technologist Band 7	2
Technologist Band 8	2
Grand Total	100

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2) Current Non-Ongoing Positions - By Classification *
Data as at 24 Feb 2013

Classification	Headcount
Administrative/Professional Band 1	7
Administrative/Professional Band 2	5
Administrative/Professional Band 3	18
Administrative/Professional Band 4	31
Administrative/Professional Band 5	19
Administrative/Professional Band 6	17
Administrative/Professional Band 7	7
Administrative/Professional Band 8	7
Administrative/Professional Band 9	6
Content Maker Band 1	4
Content Maker Band 2	9
Content Maker Band 3	53
Content Maker Band 4	89
Content Maker Band 5	73
Content Maker Band 6	58
Content Maker Band 7	38
Content Maker Band 8	25
Content Maker Band 9	20
Head Office Retail Manager Level 1	2
Senior Executive Band 1	14
Senior Executive Band 2	12
Senior Executive Band 3	8
Senior Executive Band 4	3
Retail Shop Assistant	1
Technologist Band 1	3
Technologist Band 2	1
Technologist Band 3	2
Technologist Band 4	3
Technologist Band 5	1
Technologist Band 6	3
Technologist Band 7	5
Technologist Band 8	7
Grand Total	551

* "Non-Ongoing" covers Contract positions only. Casual employees are not reported against established positions.

3) Number of Employees Engaged on Contract This Financial Year To Date and Average Employment Period

* *Data as at 24 Feb 2013*

Number of Employees	768
Ave. Length of Employment	107 Days

* Contract includes Fixed Term, Specified Task, Run of Show, Nominated Long Fixed Term, Nominated Long Term Specified Task and Phased Retirement employees. Data includes contract renewals.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 28

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) How many ongoing staff have left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
- 2) How many non-ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
- 3) How many contract staff left the department/agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer:

- 1) Table: Number and Classification of Ongoing Employees Who Left the ABC this financial year to date (*Data as at 24 Feb 2013*)

(Table commences overleaf)

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Classification	Headcount
Administrative/Professional Band 2	2
Administrative/Professional Band 3	3
Administrative/Professional Band 4	15
Administrative/Professional Band 5	9
Administrative/Professional Band 6	9
Administrative/Professional Band 7	11
Administrative/Professional Band 8	5
Administrative/Professional Band 9	2
Content Maker Band 2	2
Content Maker Band 3	9
Content Maker Band 4	16
Content Maker Band 5	25
Content Maker Band 6	24
Content Maker Band 7	30
Content Maker Band 8	23
Content Maker Band 9	3
Head Office Retail Manager Level 3	2
Senior Executive Band 1	5
Senior Executive Band 2	13
Senior Executive Band 3	1
Senior Executive Band 4	3
Retail Shop Assistant	28
Shop Manager Grade C	6
Shop Manager Grade D	2
Technologist Band 5	2
Technologist Band 6	9
Technologist Band 7	8
Technologist Band 8	4
Technologist Band 9	2
Total	273

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- 2) Number and Classification of Non-On-going Staff Who Left the ABC this financial year to date

** Data as at 24 Feb 2013*

Classification	Headcount
Administrative/Professional Band 1	1
Administrative/Professional Band 2	10
Administrative/Professional Band 3	10
Administrative/Professional Band 4	19
Administrative/Professional Band 5	7
Administrative/Professional Band 6	3
Administrative/Professional Band 7	7
Administrative/Professional Band 8	8
Casual Fixed Rate	145
Content Maker Band 1	10
Content Maker Band 2	44
Content Maker Band 3	65
Content Maker Band 4	95
Content Maker Band 5	59
Content Maker Band 6	50
Content Maker Band 7	25
Content Maker Band 8	5
Content Maker Band 9	4
Retail Head Office Assistant	1
Retail Shop Assistant	67
Retail Stock Assistant	12
Senior Executive Band 1	2
Senior Executive Band 2	3
Senior Executive Band 3	1
Senior Executive Band 4	1
Technologist Band 1	2
Technologist Band 3	2
Technologist Band 5	2
Technologist Band 6	2
Technologist Band 7	1
Total	663

* Non-Ongoing includes Contract and Casual employees.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

3) Number and Classification of Contract Staff Who Left the ABC this financial year to date

** Data as at 24 Feb 2013*

Classification	Headcount
Administrative/Professional Band 2	4
Administrative/Professional Band 3	4
Administrative/Professional Band 4	12
Administrative/Professional Band 5	6
Administrative/Professional Band 6	3
Administrative/Professional Band 7	7
Administrative/Professional Band 8	7
Content Maker Band 1	2
Content Maker Band 2	2
Content Maker Band 3	35
Content Maker Band 4	55
Content Maker Band 5	46
Content Maker Band 6	44
Content Maker Band 7	22
Content Maker Band 8	5
Content Maker Band 9	4
Senior Executive Band 1	2
Senior Executive Band 2	3
Senior Executive Band 3	1
Senior Executive Band 4	1
Technologist Band 1	2
Technologist Band 3	1
Technologist Band 5	2
Technologist Band 6	2
Technologist Band 7	1
Total	273

** Contract includes Fixed Term, Specified Task and Run of Show employees.*

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 29

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer:

The ABC has no overall plan to reduce staffing. 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.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 30

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012

http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- 1) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
- 2) Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- 3) Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- 4) Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- 5) Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

These savings targets were set for the Portfolio and not directly for the ABC. The ABC will achieve Forward Estimates efficiency savings through negotiated lower costs of services with service providers for communication and signal delivery services. Savings are \$0.2m p.a. for each year over the forward estimates.

The ABC is not subject to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation's requirements for further savings. Accordingly, questions 1-5 are not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 31

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Printing costs

Senator Cameron asked:

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer:

Document	Number of copies	Delivered to	Cost	Online
ABC Annual Report	1500	Parliament, Canberra press gallery, libraries, government agencies, universities, ABC offices Australia-wide.	\$32,419	Yes
ABC Equity and Diversity Plan Annual Report	400	Parliament, ABC offices Australia-wide, libraries	\$6,288	Yes

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 32

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Graduate Recruitment

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) How much has been spent on 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs.
- 2) Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

Not applicable. The ABC does not have a graduate recruitment program.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 33

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Graduate Training

Senator Birmingham asked:

How much was spent on 2013 Graduate Training? Provide details of what training was provided, why and the estimated cost for each.

Answer:

Not applicable. The ABC does not have a graduate recruitment program.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 34

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
- 2) Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
- 3) Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- 4) Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
- 7) 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.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 35

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?
- 2) What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- 3) What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- 4) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- 5) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

- 1) The Corporation reviews expenditure on entertainment as part of managing the overall budget. There is no current definitive plan to reduce expenditure on these items.
- 2) The ABC is forecasting to spend in total \$423,000 on entertainment in 2012-13. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.
- 3) The ABC considers hospitality to be a subset of its entertainment expenditure in accordance with the ABC's Entertainment and Functions policy. Entertainment expenditure may include hosting guests at key media industry events (eg, the Walkley Awards and the Andrew Olle lecture), hosting the ABC's annual Parliament House Showcase, launching ABC Television's new season programming and attendance at press club luncheons.
- 4) For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 the ABC spent \$237,000.
- 5) Not applicable. Refer to (3) above.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 36

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Meeting costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- 2) What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

The ABC does not separately identify costs of meetings. It is not feasible to separately identify items of meeting costs due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 37

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Program launch costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
- 2) What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- 3) What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

Not applicable.

The ABC does not administer government programs.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 38

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- 2) What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- 3) 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?
- 4) Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?
- 5) Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

- 1) 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 Director of Legal or other lawyers within the Legal and Business Affairs Division.
- 2) The ABC does not maintain records relating to the total cost which can be attributed to processing FOI requests. The ABC's Annual Statistical Returns which are submitted to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner contain some information regarding the estimated staff hours spent on FOI matters, and the non-staff costs directly attributable to FOI. This information relates primarily to training.
- 3) Between 1 July 2012 and 11 February 2013 the ABC received 22 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of the 22 requests:
 - 4 were granted in full;
 - 2 were granted in part;
 - 6 were refused;
 - 1 was dealt with outside of the FOI process;
 - 3 were withdrawn;
 - 6 were pending.
- 4) Of the 13 requests which required a response (that is, excluding the withdrawn and pending requests), 9 requests were completed within the applicable statutory time period, and 4 were completed within 30 calendar days after the applicable statutory time period. Delays were experienced identifying and locating relevant documents, and formulating a decision.
- 5) None of these requests remain outstanding.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 39

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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:

1)

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$
Below \$10,000		
Various	Various	63,745
Sub total		<u>63,745</u>
\$10,000-\$50,000		
The Collective Group Pty. Limited	Technical advice	11,520
Radio New Zealand Limited	Technical advice	12,795
Protiviti Pty Limited	Strategic advice	13,308
Risk And Injury Management Services Pty Ltd	Technical advice	13,900
Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Pty Ltd	Heritage management plans	14,000
Invisible Hand Consulting Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	14,264
Morton Davies Consulting Pty Ltd	Strategic review	17,500
Canary Yellow Consulting Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	21,250

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$
S. Brown	Strategic advice	25,000
J. McCarthy	Strategic advice	25,000
The Corporate Executive Board Company	Technical advice	27,900
Konica Minolta Business Solutions Australia Pty Ltd	Strategic review	33,450
Professional Financial Consulting Pty Ltd	Technical advice	35,958
Digital Eskimo Pty Limited	Strategic review	41,269
GHD Pty Ltd	Technical advice	42,800
The Brief Group Pty Ltd	Technical advice	47,100
Sub total		397,014
Above \$50,000		
The trustee for Deloitte Access Economics Trust	Strategic advice	62,920
P. Graham	Strategic advice	63,000
The Boston Consulting Group	Strategic advice	99,000
IT Newcom Pty Limited	Strategic advice	230,480
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Finance, tax and other advisory services	297,908
Venture Consulting Pty Limited	Strategic advice	299,717
Sub total		1,053,025
Grand total		1,450,039

Notes:

It is not practical to determine the duration of the above consultancies. The ABC's procurement policy, which complies with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, was applied to the above consultancies. Those contracts in excess of \$100k but less than \$400k

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

typically require a request for quote (RFQ) process, whilst those contracts less than \$100,000 typically require three or more quotes.

- 2) The ABC has 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.

It is not appropriate to detail significant consultancies in advance.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 40

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media monitoring

Senator Birmingham 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 these services for the year 2012-13?
- c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer:

- a. These services were provided to the ABC by Media Monitors.
- b. The estimated budget to provide these services to the ABC for financial year 2012-13 is \$180,000.
- c. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 the cost of media monitoring, transcripts and press clipping services for the ABC was \$74,000.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 41

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) 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 May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue.
- 2) Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
 - a. If yes, provide details of the useage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when useage peaks).
 - b. Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff useage?
 - c. If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor useage in the future?
- 3) Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours.

Answer:

- 1) No.
- 2) The ABC logs employee internet usage, including the use of social media sites. The ABC monitors time spent on a site, how much bandwidth was used, the name of employee viewing the site and the length of time spent viewing the site.
- 3) As a media organisation, the ABC has been at the forefront of utilising social media to enhance the delivery of its services. Social media is being utilised in innovative ways to interact with and build audiences, gather feedback, research and keep abreast of industry trends and as a new platform for the delivery of ABC content.

The ABC has over 150 official facebook pages covering ABC programs and content areas such as triple j, triple j unearthed, ABC News, ABC TV, ABC Radio National, ABC Technology and Games, Radio National Drive, ABC Local Radio stations and ABC iview. The ABC has over 200 official twitter accounts.

Social media usage within the Corporation is therefore quite pervasive and, in the majority of cases, an accepted work tool. Employees are required to adhere to the ABC's Use of Social Media Policy, which sets out four key principles to guide employees in the appropriate use of social media accounts.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 42

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Internet

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013:

- There were three internet blackouts due to the ABC's Internet Services Provider, totalling 2 hours 20 minutes. These incidents affected publication of new content on to the ABC's websites, but did not affect the ABC's websites serving existing content because a separate Content Distribution Network operates outside the ABC.
- There were seven internet browsing incidents totalling seven hours caused by a range of issues with the ABC's internal infrastructure, resulting in slow browsing or an intermittent access problem. These incidents do not affect the delivery of ABC web sites to the audience.

There is no impact to the Minister's office.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 43

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staff amenities

Senator Birmingham asked:

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list.

Answer:

The ABC provides a range of amenities at its various offices, studios and bureaux of the kind which are commonly found in workplaces, the range of amenities varies between the size and location of the workplace but includes such amenities as:

- Shower and change facilities
- Secure bike parking
- Kitchens
- Vending machines
- On-site cafes
- Emergency/sick rooms
- Parking
- Childcare
- Accessibility features (such as accessible toilet facilities, places of safety for people with disabilities during emergencies/evacuations, assisted listening systems and raised tactile and Braille signage).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 44

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Coffee machines

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff useage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
2. Why were coffee machines purchased?
3. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
4. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
5. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
6. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?
7. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff useage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
8. Why are coffee machines rented?
9. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
10. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
11. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
12. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer:

1. The ABC does not keep central records detailing the purchase of coffee machines and coffee or coffee pods.
- 2.-12. Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 45

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Birmingham asked:

For this financial year to date:

- a. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- b. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- c. 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 (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- d. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- e. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- f. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- g. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- h. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
- i. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.
- j. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer:

With the exception of two, the ABC has not used any of the abovementioned companies in this financial year to date.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The ABC has used a company called Boston Consulting Group for services totalling \$198,000 in relation to the management of two projects. The ABC has also used a company called Ikon Communications for outdoor and print promotions of an ABC TV program totalling \$173,837.

At this stage none of the other companies are expected to be used.

It is not feasible to provide a list of contractors used by the ABC during the year, along with a description and cost. The nature of content creation and delivery is such that it is inevitable that contractors will be used, for example to provide services on a 'run of show' basis.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 46

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grants

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
- 2) Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.
- 3) Provide a list of grants that your department/agency administers that had uncommitted grants funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012. How much was funding reduced for grants?

Answer:

- 1) The ABC does not administer grants.
- 2) - 3) Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 47

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator Birmingham 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)?

- a. If not, why not? Provide details, including 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)
- b. 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?
- c. 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)

- a. Between 1 July 2012 and 31 January 2013 (inclusive) the ABC made 436 payments to consultants and contractors amounting to \$6.2 million, of which 308 transactions (71%) totalling \$5.3 million (86%) 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).
- b. 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.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- c. 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*.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 48

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Stationery requirements

Senator Birmingham asked:

What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?

Answer:

The ABC procures the majority of its stationery through Complete Office Supplies (COS). The ABC has spent \$498,000 (exclusive of GST) with COS for the financial year to 31 January 2013.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 49

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media subscriptions

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
- 2) What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
- 3) What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- 1)
 - a. 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 channels
 - 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
 - Reviewing programming that might be suitable for the ABC to acquire
 - Keeping up to date on emerging bands and worldwide music trends.
- b. The year to date expenditure as at 31 January 2013 was \$100,000.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2)

- a. The ABC subscribes to certain newspapers that directly relate to business needs (the provision of news services).
- b. The year to date expenditure as at 31 January 2013 was \$448,000 on newspapers and magazines.

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.

3)

- a. The ABC subscribes to certain magazines that directly relate to business needs.
- b. The year to date expenditure as at 31 January 2013 was \$448,000 on newspapers and magazines.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 50

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- 2) What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- 3) What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
- 4) Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
- 5) 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 total costs of the lounge memberships.
- 6) When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an 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.
- 7) Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

- 1) The ABC spent a total of \$10.3 million on travel for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013. Domestic travel spend was \$6.7 million and international travel spend was \$3.6 million gross (including excess baggage).

The majority of domestic travel currently involves News (25%), Television (21%) and Radio (19%) and is primarily in relation to news gathering and program making.

The majority of international travel relates to News (43%), Television (24%) and ABC International staff (14%), in particular to cover news stories, production, Australia Network or AusAid funded activities. Details of expenditure is shown below.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Description	Period 7 YTD Actual 12/13
Airfares - Domestic	2,049,987
Allowances - Domestic	1,318,599
Accommodation - Domestic	1,458,789
Domestic taxis and pva	1,427,823
Travel Entitlements (9/B/4) under the Enterprise Agreement	95,153
Domestic Other (eg train fares and car Hire)	318,470
Total Domestic Travel Expenditure	6,733,610
Airfares - International	1,395,670
Allowances - International	1,463,185
International Other (eg train fares and car Hire)	688,014
Total International Travel Expenditure	3,546,868
Excess Baggage	36,597
Total Other	36,597
Total ABC Travel Expenditure	10,317,075

- 2) The ABC's travel budget for the five months to 30 June 2013 is \$9.6 million. Domestic travel for the five months is budgeted at \$6.4 million and the budget for International travel is \$3.2 million.

The majority of the travel will be related to covering news stories, costs associated with program making, Australia Network and AusAid funded activities.

- 3) Apart from the budget remaining for the five months to 30 June 2013 there is no budget currently set for travel for the six months from 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013.

The majority of the travel for the calendar year will related to covering news stories (including Federal Election coverage), costs associated with program making, Australia Network and AusAid funded activities.

- 4) Not applicable. The ABC is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* agency and is exempt from following these guidelines.
- 5) Yes the ABC does provide lounge membership to employees. Refer to table below.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Membership Classification	No. of members
Bronze	59
Silver	57
Total	116

Provision of lounge membership is usually only for frequent travellers, and is at the discretion of each Divisional Director.

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

- 6) It is not ABC Policy for ABC Executives to travel with administrative staff.
- 7) No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 51

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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:

1. The ABC spent a total of \$3.6 million on internal legal services and external legal advice to the end of January 2013. This related to mainly Employment Law, Commercial Law, Media Law and Property Law.

The split of costs is as follows:

Internal legal department (incl Employee Relations dept) *	\$2.6m
External legal advice from private firms	\$0.7m
Other Legal services (mainly Barristers)	<u>\$0.3m</u>
Total	\$3.6m

*Note – this includes \$0.3m of support staff costs in Employee Relations department.

2. Nil.
3. The ABC spent \$0.7 million on specialist legal advice from private firms to the end of January 2013, relating to mainly Employment Law (\$0.2 million), Commercial Law (\$0.3 million), Media Law (\$0.1 million) and Property Law (\$0.1 million).
4. The ABC spent \$0.3 million on legal services from other sources (mainly barristers) to the end of January 2013 relating to advice and/or court representation in relation to defamation, copyright and statutory interpretation.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 52

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education expenses

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?
- 2) 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, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.

Answer:

- 1) The ABC provides a range of training and development opportunities focused on strategic and operational priorities. Training encompasses 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 is provided via courses and seminars, on-the-job projects, coaching sessions, and remotely using webinars and e-learning packages.

The ABC offers study assistance in certain circumstances. The ABC's Study Assistance Policy sets down processes for considering applications for study assistance. This policy is designed to assist employees and managers understand the types of Study Assistance that are available, detail the process to be followed by employees applying for Study Assistance and highlight the factors that should be considered by managers and delegates when reviewing applications from employees for study assistance.

- 2) The table which follows below details the training activity recorded in the ABC training database for the period July 2012 – January 2013 by category, duration and participation.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Category of Training	Training Hours	Employees attending
Broadcast Operations	948.5	25
Broadcasting Technical	592.8	92
Business Skills	1345.16	231
Cross Media Production	732.5	516
Desktop Applications - Audio	120.3	25
Desktop Applications - Databases	50.5	17
Editorial Policy	502.5	141
Equity & Diversity	949.25	418
Finance	405.25	114
Graphic Design	195	23
Human Resources	504.88	385
Information Management (Archives)	229	112
Information Technology	310.5	14
Legal	227.1	125
Management	2010.85	208
Marketing	2	2
News Reporting	2767.59	480
OH&S	3531.35	1039
PC Skills - MS Office	235.85	46
Professional Development	73	2
Project Management	261	36
Radio Production	6137.79*	1556
Retail	7	3
Training	891.04	123
TV & Video Post Production	2508.37	191
TV & Video Production	10154.02	1372
Web Production	1787.39	454
Grand Total	37480.49	7750 **

* Includes radio air checks

** Employees may have attended more than one category of training

Financial data regarding training expenses for financial year to date is not readily available. An unreasonable diversion of resources would be required to compile the requested data. Figures regarding study leave are not available. Personal study leave is approved and resourced on a divisional basis and central records are not kept in this regard.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 53

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive coaching

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by the ABC for senior management or the executive team, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The names of all service providers engaged
- 2) For each service purchased from a provider listed under (iv), 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 (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
- 3) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

Please refer to table below.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question	Advanced Media Leadership Series
1(a) Total spend on Services July 2012 – February 2013	\$38,262.57
1(b) The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification	Staff are selected via the ABC talent management process and have previously been identified as high-potential. (EL2 and above)
1(c) The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification	16
1(d) The names of all service providers engaged	Internally developed and led. Externally appointed trainers: <i>Hemsley Fraser</i> <i>(Jarrod Siegertz, Alan Barnett)</i> <i>Pivot Consulting</i> <i>(Douglas Wolfson)</i>
2. For each service purchased from a provider in 1(d) provide: a) name and nature of service b) whether the service was one on one or group based c) the number of employees who received the service d) Total number of hours for all employees e) Total spent on service f) description of fees charged	a) Advanced Media Leadership Series. b) group based c) 16 participants d) Each participant attended 56 hours of training e)-f) Financial details are commercial in confidence

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

<p>3) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency</p> <p>a) location used b) The number of employees who took part on each occasion (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification) c) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d) Any costs the department of agency incurred to use the location</p>	<p>a) The Ideas Vault, Stanford Plaza Hotel Melbourne, Aerial UTS Function Centre b) 16 c) 56 hours d) The Ideas Vault (Training venue and catering – 2 days) = \$3,239.50. Stamford Plaza Hotel, Melbourne (Training venue and catering – 2 days) = \$3441.13. Aerial UTS Function Centre (Training venue and catering – 3 days) = \$4611 (Estimate only – invoice not yet received)</p>
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Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 54

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media training

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The names of all service providers engaged
- 2) For each service purchased from a provider listed under (d), 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 (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
- 3) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. 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.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 55

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid parental leave

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
- 2) 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 and their classification are in receipt of these payments.
- 3) What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date?

Answer:

- 1) Any ABC who meets the criteria is eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Scheme. Eligibility for PPL is determined by the Family Assistance Office/Centrelink.
- 2) From 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, there have been 93 employees who have received payment under the PPL Government scheme. Of the 93 who received payments this financial year to date, 2 are classified as Senior Executives, 55 are classified as Content Makers, 30 are classified as Administrative/Professional and 4 are classified as Technologists, 1 is classified as a Manager – Retail and 1 is classified as a Shop Assistant-Retail.
- 3) Female employees of the ABC with 12 months prior service are entitled to take up to 52 weeks Maternity Leave of which 12 weeks will be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) 1973 Act (MLCE). An additional two weeks will be paid in line with the conditions set out in the MLCE Act.

An employee taking Maternity Leave may elect to take the paid portion of that leave at half pay over a period of 28 weeks. However, Maternity Leave taken at half pay will not count as service beyond 14 weeks.

Employees are entitled to six weeks paid adoption leave from the date they assume responsibility as the primary carer of the child.

An employee whose spouse or partner gives birth may use up to 10 days of their personal leave for caring purposes as Spouse/Partner leave.

From the 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013, 92 employees accessed some form of paid parental leave offered by the ABC.

Note: The criteria differs between the PPL and the ABC's maternity leave arrangements. Consequently, the numbers in both schemes are different.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 56

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) How cars are owned by each department/agency?
- 2) Where is the car/s located?
- 3) What is the car/s used for?
- 4) What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
- 5) How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

- 1) The ABC owned 61 vehicles as at 31 January 2013, 10 of which were trailers.
- 2) Refer to table below.
- 3) Seven vehicles are used by ABC Radio, 51 vehicles are used by ABC Resources (for production needs), one vehicle is used by ABC technology, one vehicle is used by ABC Corporate Strategy and one vehicle is used by ABC Communications Networks.
- 4) Refer to table below.
- 5) Refer to table below.

Travelled 1.07.2012- 31.01.2013	YTD Cost 1.07.2012- 31.01.2013	Location
223	275.00	WA
1,015	6,495.00	WA
924	1,180.00	WA
439	973.00	WA
2,128	2,100.00	WA
207	794.00	WA
3,585	1,571.00	WA
84	2,953.00	NSW
25	1,337.00	NSW
648	6,354.00	NSW
1,113	4,477.00	ACT
0	5.00	NT
960	432.00	VIC
13,666	13,255.00	SA
461	1,806.00	SA
2,092	1,746.00	SA
197	1,560.00	SA

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

1,036	1,567.00	SA
863	2,368.00	NT
271	1,418.00	NSW
4,168	1,373.00	VIC
8,524	5,486.00	VIC
2,211	3,753.00	VIC
1,262	4,943.00	VIC
0	1,756.00	VIC
7,885	11,071.00	VIC
1,346	594.00	VIC
114	1,055.00	WA
616	1,088.00	SA
2,383	2,350.00	QLD
411	2,835.00	NSW
820	3,764.00	NSW
1,210	1,666.00	NSW
27,894	8,213.00	NT
0	0	NSW
4,782	2,007.00	QLD
3,688	3,857.00	QLD
3,812	2,080.00	QLD
1,066	696.00	NSW
770	5,152.00	VIC
7,004	3,930.00	NT
618	892.00	NSW
2,093	1,737.00	TAS
0	3,620.00	TAS
0	800.00	TAS
948	2,246.00	TAS
2,519	701.00	WA
1,814	681.00	NT
5,798	380.00	NT
1,707	559.00	WA
991	3,539.00	NSW
2,148	372.00	VIC
<u>128,539</u>	<u>\$135,862.00</u>	

*Trailers omitted as they do not have an odometer reading.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 57

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1. 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 for the 7 months to 31st January 2013 was \$1.428m

2. There are number of reasons for expenditure on taxis services, these include ;
 - Travel to and from the airport where the employee is travelling on approved ABC business;
 - Travel to and from meetings where the employee is representing the ABC;
 - Complying with WH&S requirements;
 - Emergency situation or where extenuating circumstances apply and the use of a taxi has been approved by the relevant manager and
 - Circumstances specified in the various employment agreements, particularly in relation to after hours work.

All expenditure on taxi services must comply with the Corporation's Taxi Policy.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 58

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hire Cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
- 2) What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

- 1) For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 January 2013 the ABC spent \$119,000 on hire cars, including petrol and toll costs.

By Division	Period 7
\$A(k)	YTD Actual
	12/13
ABC Commercial	3
ABC Resources	2
Business Services	3
Board/MD	1
Capital	4
ABC International	1
Corporate Affairs	1
Editorial Policies	0
Innovation	1
News	27
People & Learning	0
Radio & Regional Content	28
Technology	4
Communication Networks	3
Television	38
Research & Marketing	3
TOTAL	119

- 2) Cars are hired primarily in relation to the gathering of news stories and the making of programs.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 59

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit cards

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.
- 2) Please update details of the following?
 - a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

- 1) 631 staff have an ABC procurement card. These staff comprise:

	Procurement
Staff Band 2	1
Staff Band 3	13
Staff Band 4	57
Staff Band 5	66
Staff Band 6	111
Staff Band 7	146
Staff Band 8	58
Staff Band 9	43
Total Staff	495
SE Band 1	32
SE Band 2	58
SE Band 3	30
SE Band 4 & AWAs	16
Total Exec	136
	631

Eligibility for corporate procurement cards is not based on employee classification, rather it is determined by business needs.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

- 2) There has been no recent change to the ABC's approach to credit card use. Please refer to the ABC's answer to question on notice 116 from the February 2012 Additional Budget Estimates hearings.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 60

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of equipment

Senator Birmingham asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.

Answer:

The following two tables summarise the provision of electronic equipment to ABC staff for respectively this financial year to date and for the 2011–12 financial year.

This equipment includes the replacement of existing, outdated or unsupported equipment and also equipment provided to particular job roles or functions for new usage.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2012-13 Financial year to date

Category	Qty	Purchase Value	On-going Cost	Models	Classification of Staff	Reasons
Mobile Phones	262	\$199,091	Call charges Most users on 1GB data plan @ \$10/month	Majority are iPhones	Content Makers, Operational staff, and Senior Management	Audio field recording, editing and uploading; out of office and out of hours communication. Content and App development for iOS and Android platform.
Wireless cards	110	\$22,227	Data plan from 1GB to 9GB per month.	Telstra 4G USB modems	Content Makers, Operational staff.	Content uploading for outside broadcast, remote support.
iPad	23	\$16,555			Content Makers, Operational staff, and Senior Management	Content and App development for iPad. Access to social media during broadcasts such as election news broadcast. Mobile computing and out of office and out of hours communication.
Laptop	180	\$494,371		Windows and Mac	Operational staff, and Senior Management	Mobile computing.
Remote Access Tokens	181	\$9,000			Operational staff, and Senior Management	Remote access to either the ABC internal network or applications.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2011–2012 Financial Year

Category	Qty	Purchase Value	On-going Cost	Models	Classification of Staff	Reasons
Mobile Phones	440	\$343,336.68	Call charges. Most users on 1GB data plan @ \$10/month	Majority are iPhones (343).	Content Makers, Operational staff, and Senior Management	Audio field recording, editing and uploading; out of office and out of hours communication. Content and App development for iOS and Android platform.
Wireless cards	60	\$12,705.27	Data plan from 1GB to 9GB per month.	Telstra 3G or 4G USB modems.	Content Makers, Operational staff.	Content uploading for outside broadcast, out of office support.
iPad	41	\$34,266.77	Users on 1, 3 or 5GB data plan		Content Makers, Operational staff, and Senior Management	Content and App development for iPad. Access to social media during broadcasts such as election news broadcast. Mobile computing and out of office and out of hours communication.
Laptop	317	\$688,738.54		Windows and Mac	Operational staff, and Senior Management	Mobile computing.
Remote Access Tokens	201	\$9,500			Operational staff, and Senior Management	Remote access to either the ABC internal network or applications.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 61

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Electricity purchasing

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?
- 2) What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- 1) Refer to table below.

Sites	Retailer	Agreement Commencement	Agreement Duration
NSW & SA major/regional sites	Momentum Energy	1 October 2011	3 years
VIC, QLD, TAS & ACT major/regional sites	ERM Power	1 October 2011	3 years
Darwin	Power & Water	1 July 2012	1 year
Perth	Synergy	13 July 2011	2 years
Remaining regional sites	Ongoing franchise accounts with local network providers		

- 2) For the financial year to 31 January 2013, electricity expenditure is \$4,203,778 (this is based on 6.5% forecast for sites that have not been billed up onto the 31 January 2013).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 62

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents

Senator Birmingham asked:

1) Have any briefings and/or provision of information s been provided to the Australian Greens?

If yes, please include:

- a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
- b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
- c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
- d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
- e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

2) Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:

- a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
- b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
- c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
- d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
- e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
- f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer:

No information has been sought or provided outside of the Senate Estimates process.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 63

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Shredders

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

For the financial year 2012–13 (to end of February), the ABC has purchased three shredders.

- FELLOWES SHREDDER P-48C CROSS CUT \$180.25
- FELLOWES SHREDDER P-58CS CROSS CUT \$230.39
- FELLOWES SHREDDER P-48C CROSS CUT \$180.25

These shredders were purchased to ensure safe destruction of confidential documents.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 64

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Protective security policy framework

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer:

As the Protective Security Policy Framework is not set down in legislation, the ABC is not required to comply with this Framework.

Please refer to question on notice 205 from the October 2012 Supplementary Budget Estimates for details of the ABC's security arrangements.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 65

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Office Locations

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by:

- a. Department/Agency;
- b. Location;
- c. Leased or Owned;
- d. Size;
- e. Number of Staff at each location and classification;
- f. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre;
- g. If owned, the value of the building;
- h. Depreciation of buildings that are owned;
- i. Type of functions and work undertaken

Answer:

Please refer to attached spreadsheet.

ABC Office Property Details - as at 31 January 2013

#	Description	Address	Function / Use	Owned Or Leased	Total NLA (sqm)	No. Of Staff [FTE]	Total Property Value \$M [31/01/13]	Depreciation Exp. \$M [Jul12 to Jan 2013]	Annual Rent [Excludes GST]	Rent Per Square Metre	Comments
NEW SOUTH WALES											
1	Ultimo	700 Harris Street	Radio/TV Studio/Orch/Offices	Owned	48,923	2,030	\$ 285.76	-\$ 10.12	\$ -		
2	Lanceley Place	2-8 Lanceley Place	Sound Stage/Offices etc	Owned	5,478	39	\$ 26.83	-\$ 1.08	\$ -		
3	Bega	1/184-188 Carp Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	251	12			\$ 39,316.20	\$156.64	
4	Broken Hill	454-456 Argent Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	306	9	\$ 0.75	-\$ 0.07	\$ -		
5	Coffs Harbour	Suite 114, AMP Centre, 24 Gordon Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	94	3			\$ 28,906.08	\$307.51	
6	Dubbo	1/45 Wingewarra Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	179.5	7	\$ 0.59	-\$ 0.10	\$ -		
7	Gosford	Shop T252 Erina Fair Terrigal Drive	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	71	2			\$ 46,075.80	\$648.95	
8	Lismore	59-61 High Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	335	12	\$ 1.14	-\$ 0.08	\$ -		
9	Muswellbrook	Shop 2/36 Brook Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	58	2			\$ 15,547.80	\$268.07	
10	Newcastle	Cnr Wood & Parry Streets	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	602.7	27	\$ 1.98	-\$ 0.10	\$ -		
11	Nowra	Suite 2, 64 Bridge Road	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	107	3			\$ 34,200.00	\$319.63	
12	Orange	46 Bathurst Road	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	187.7	9	\$ 0.75	-\$ 0.05	\$ -		
13	Port Macquarie	51 Lord Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	256	8	\$ 1.17	-\$ 0.04	\$ -		
14	Tamworth	468-472 Peel Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	232	9			\$ 41,545.44	\$179.08	
15	Wagga Wagga	100-104 Fitzmaurice Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	297	11	\$ 1.24	-\$ 0.09	\$ -		
16	Wollongong	13 Victoria Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	610	16	\$ 3.67	-\$ 0.10	\$ -		
NSW Sub-Total				16	57,988	2,199	\$ 323.88	-\$ 11.83	\$ 205,591		
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY											
17	Canberra - Dickson	Cnr Wakefield & Northbourne Avenues	Radio/TV Studio/Offices	Leased	3,825	163	\$ 12.23	-\$ 0.53	\$ -		
18	Canberra - Parl. House	Rooms S2-063/064/072 & 113	Radio Studio/Offices	Leased	475	Inc above			\$ 230,106.60	\$484.43	
ACT Sub-Total				2	4,300	163	\$ 12.23	-\$ 0.53	\$ 230,107		
QUEENSLAND											
19	Brisbane - South Bank	114 Grey Street	Radio/TV Studio/Orch/Offices	Leased	9,978	253	\$ 82.88	-\$ 1.40	\$ -		
20	Bundaberg	6/58-62 Woongarra Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	217	11			\$ 51,440.04	\$237.05	
21	Cairns	157 Sheridan Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	282	12	\$ 0.99	-\$ 0.07	\$ -		
22	Gladstone	43 Tank Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	49	1			\$ 13,416.00	\$273.80	
23	Gold Coast - Mermaid Beach	33 Francis Street Mermaid Beach	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	280	14	\$ 1.85	-\$ 0.04	\$ -		
24	Gold Coast	Part Suite 3, 2485 Gold Coast Highway	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	48.3	5			\$ 32,920.80	\$681.59	
25	Longreach	Cnr Duck Street & Crow Lane	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	243	7	\$ 0.19	-\$ 0.01	\$ -		
27	Mackay	2 Wellington Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	291	10	\$ 1.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	
28	Maroochydore	15 Carnaby Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	373	11	\$ 1.86	-\$ 0.10	\$ -		
29	Mount Isa	114 Camooweal Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	283	6	\$ 0.68	-\$ 0.07	\$ -		
30	Rockhampton	236 Quay Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	700	11	\$ 0.81	-\$ 0.01	\$ -		
31	Toowoomba	297 Margaret Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	311	10	\$ 0.61	-\$ 0.07	\$ -		
32	Townsville	8 Wickham Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	624	17	\$ 2.29	-\$ 0.49	\$ -		
QLD Sub-Total				13	13,679	368	\$ 93.37	-\$ 2.26	\$ 97,777		
NORTHERN TERRITORY											
33	Darwin	18 Bennett Street	Radio/TV Studio/Offices	Owned	1,881	104	\$ 12.21	-\$ 0.40	\$ -		
34	Darwin	Level 1 Qantas House 16 Bennett Street	Office Accommodation	Leased	472	incl above			\$ 157,308.96	\$333.28	
35	Alice Springs	Cnr Gap Road & Speed Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	322	10	\$ 1.23	-\$ 0.10	\$ -		
36	Katherine	Cnr Lindsay St & Stuart Hwy	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	25	1			\$ 8,716.56	\$348.66	
NT Sub-Total				4	2,700	115	\$ 13.44	-\$ 0.50	\$ 166,026		
VICTORIA											
37	Southbank	120-130 Southbank Boulevard	Radio/TV/Orch/Offices	Owned	11,367	442	\$ 38.15	-\$ 1.66	\$ -		
38	Ripponlea	8 Gordon Street, Elsternwick	TV Studio / Offices	Owned	11,828	244	\$ 13.70	-\$ 0.46	\$ -		
39	Selwyn Street	10-16 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick	Office / Warehouse	Owned	5,246	incl above	\$ 9.91	-\$ 0.20	\$ -		
40	Ballarat	5 Dawson Street South	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	522	12	\$ 1.46	-\$ 0.06	\$ -		
41	Bendigo	278-282 Napier Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	193.8	9	\$ 0.64	-\$ 0.03	\$ -		
42	Horsham	3/148 Baillie Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	116	4			\$ 14,554.32	\$125.47	
43	Mildura	73-75 Pine Avenue	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	260	6			\$ 29,064.96	\$111.79	
44	Morwell	20 George Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	83	1			\$ 10,399.92	\$125.30	
45	Sale	336-340 York Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	404	9	\$ 1.43	-\$ 0.05	\$ -		
46	Shepparton	50A Wyndham Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	238	4			\$ 32,708.40	\$137.43	
47	Warrnambool	1/166D Koroit Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	85	3			\$ 22,200.00	\$261.18	
48	Wodonga	1 High Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	200	9	\$ 0.74	-\$ 0.04	\$ -		
VIC Sub-Total				12	30,543	743	\$ 66.030	-\$ 2.500	\$ 108,928		
SOUTH AUSTRALIA											
49	Collinswood	85 Main North East Road	Radio/TV Studio/Offices	Owned	19,904	285	\$ 24.10	-\$ 2.16	\$ -		
50	Mount Gambier	31 Penola Road	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	222	9	\$ 1.16	-\$ 0.05	\$ -		
51	Port Augusta	Shop 2/6 Church Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	43	3			\$ 14,920.80	\$347.00	
52	Port Lincoln	1st Fl Civic Centre 60 Tasman Terrace	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	175	4			\$ 43,711.92	\$249.78	
53	Port Pirie	85 Grey Terrace (Allot 8)	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	367	9	\$ 1.25	-\$ 0.14	\$ -		
54	Renmark	8 Ral Ral Avenue	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	298	10			\$ 33,798.36	\$113.42	
SA Sub-Total				6	21,009	320	\$ 26.51	-\$ 2.35	\$ 92,431		
TASMANIA											
55	Hobart	1-7 Liverpool Street	Radio/TV Studio/Offices	Owned	6,496	138	\$ 13.91	-\$ 0.81	\$ -		
56	Burnie	81 Mount Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	143	3			\$ 29,925.00	\$209.27	
57	Launceston	45-51 Anne Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	978	19	\$ 1.22	-\$ 0.06	\$ -		
TAS Sub-Total				3	7,617	160	\$ 15.13	-\$ 0.87	\$ 29,925		
WESTERN AUSTRALIA											
58	East Perth	Cnr Brown, Fielder & Henry Streets	Radio/TV Studio/Offices	Owned	11,340	175	\$ 39.29	-\$ 1.55	\$ -		
59	Albany	2 St Emilie Way	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	144	7	\$ 0.75	-\$ 0.03	\$ -		
60	Broome	23 Hamersley Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	375	8	\$ 5.03	-\$ 0.06	\$ -		
61	Bunbury	72 Wittenoom Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	295	11	\$ 1.31	-\$ 0.06	\$ -		
62	Esperance	80B Windich Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	155	3			\$ 30,957.38	\$199.73	
63	Geraldton	245 Marine Terrace	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	260	7	\$ 1.15	-\$ 0.02	\$ -		
64	Kalgoorlie	3/353 Hannan Street	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	207	6			\$ 72,430.32	\$349.90	
65	Karratha	Lot 2627 De Grey Place	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	234	8	\$ 1.99	-\$ 0.09	\$ -		
66	Kununurra	114B Coolibah Drive	Regional Radio Studio	Leased	92	1			\$ 26,277.24	\$285.62	
67	Wagin	58 Tudhoe Street	Regional Radio Studio	Owned	280	-	\$ 0.17	-\$ 0.02	\$ -		
WA Sub-Total				10	13,382	226	\$ 49.69	-\$ 1.83	\$ 129,665		
Grand Total				66	151,218	4,294	\$ 600.28	-\$ 22.67	\$ 1,060,448.90		

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 66

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications staff

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:
 - a. By Department or agency:
 - i. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
 - ii. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - iii. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - iv. How many are graphic designers?
 - v. How many are media managers?
 - vi. How many organise events?
- 2) Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?

Answer:

- 1) a. i -iii Please refer to the table overleaf

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

<i>Data at 11 Dec 2012</i>										
Ongoing	Classification	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Public Relations/ Communications	Director		1							1
	Senior Executive		1					1		2
	Admin/Professional		5					1		6
	Sub-total	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Marketing/ Publicity/ Promotions	Senior Executive		9					3		12
	Admin/Professional	1	32	1	2	1	1	8	2	48
	Content Maker		14		2	1	1	4	1	23
	Sub-total	1	55	1	4	2	2	15	3	83
Total Ongoing		1	62	1	4	2	2	17	3	92
Non-Ongoing	Classification	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Total
Public Relations/ Communications	Senior Executive									0
	Admin/Professional		1							1
	Content Maker									0
	Sub-total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Marketing/ Publicity/ Promotions	Senior Executive		3							3
	Admin/Professional		6			1		1		8
	Content Maker		2					2		4
	Sub-total	0	11	0	0	1	0	3	0	15
Total Non-Ongoing		0	12	0	0	1	0	3	0	16

* "Non-Ongoing" covers Contract positions only. Casual employees are not reported against established positions.

iv) Three.

v) The ABC does not have any staff holding the title of Media Manager. There are two staff members with responsibility for Corporate Communications.

vi) Three.

2) None.

The ABC has interpreted this question as referring to specialised media studios established by Government agencies for press conferences and other announcements, and not as referring to the ABC's network of radio and television broadcasting studio facilities.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 67

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grant Freeze

Senator Birmingham asked:

- 1) How much has grant funding been reduced across the department/agency as a result of the grants freeze?
- 2) Please detail all variations to grants (ie reductions, rephasing etc) that have occurred this financial year.
- 3) Has the department/agency been required to find any other savings in this financial year?
Please detail all such savings.

Answer:

The ABC does not administer grants.