

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

Question No: 41

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 103 (23/05/2012)

Topic: The Straits

Senator Bilyk asked:

Senator BILYK: The story claims that the producers flew the dog owners to Cairns for a two-week all-expenses-paid stay at a five-star hotel and provided a chauffeur driven vehicle to transport Coco, the dog, from Brisbane to the Gold Coast. It also says that, the dog having finished her film commitments, the owner and her husband had to fly from Cairns to the Gold Coast in order to appear at the Byron Bay Writers Festival. The only problem was that Qantas, the only airline that transports pets, did not fly into the Gold Coast from Cairns. So the TV producers came to Coco's rescue again, organising for tickets to fly them into Brisbane. There they were collected by a chauffeur, who installed Coco in the front seat of the stretch limousine. A plastic bowl of water was placed on the floor in front of her and the classical music on the radio was turned down. For the three-hour drive to Byron, the woman and her husband were relegated to the back seat. The issue is not that the woman and her husband were relegated to the back seat. My concern is that we have funding cuts going on. We have people losing jobs in production in Tasmania. I understand that this was a co-produced production but I am interested in knowing how much this might have cost?

Mr Scott: I recall the story but it was published some months ago now and I do not have the details.

Senator BILYK: It was 21 January.

Mr Scott: Yes. It was 4-plus months ago now. I do not have the precise detail at hand. I think this was viewed as a humorous bit of writing and I think questions were raised as to what was presented. But I am happy to provide you with details of that on notice. I have nothing further to add to that story.

Senator BILYK: Can you provide on notice answers to how much it cost, what level of verification of budgets for the production of *The Straits* was undertaken by the ABC prior to the decision to commission the program, and whether the ABC is surprised that there would appear to be such a level of padding in the program's budget as to allow Matchbox Productions to appear to have been so profligate in its spending?

Mr Scott: I can speak broadly to that, Senator. This is a co-production, but the ABC does sign off on budgets. There is a significant examination of that. Often these independent productions are independently audited at the end of their production. The books are audited. Then often our group audit function does a review. That is a standard format. So we are happy to give you details of that.

Answer:

The Straits was filmed in Cairns and the Torres Strait. Most of the crew and a large number of the cast were flown to Cairns and accommodated for the shoot, as people with the specialised skills necessary were not available in Far North Queensland.

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Training dogs for film and television performance is a time consuming and specialist business, and well-trained dogs are often paid a higher daily rate than a top actor, as a dog that slows down shooting can significantly affect the cost of the production. A typical daily rate is between \$600 and \$1,000, and the trainer is often paid on top of the dog's fee. For an "away" location shoot, the dog and trainer are generally paid for every day they are required to be on location.

For *The Straits*, a rate of \$300 per shoot day for the dog was negotiated, with travel days to and from Cairns paid at half that rate. The dog's owners were not paid and the dog was not paid for non-work days in Cairns.

The production schedule required the dog and her owners to travel from Sydney to Cairns twice. The dog and owners were also accommodated in Cairns over some non-work days, as this was cheaper than the alternative cost of return airfares.

The article referenced a trip in a stretch limousine. A car and driver was organised for one leg of the owners' and dog's final trip as this was cheaper than the cost of airfares.

The article referenced a five-star hotel. All cast and crew stayed at an apartment complex at a rate of \$86 per night.

Total payments to Coco and trainers were:

Trip 1 – 30 June to 8 July 2011 (8 days)

Economy class return flights SYD/CNS at \$768.91 per person	\$1537.82
Dog freight cost	\$ 54.55
Taxis to & from Sydney airport	\$ 77.27
Accommodation – 8 days at \$86	\$ 688.00
Fees: 3 work days at \$300, 2 travel days at \$120	\$1140.00

Trip 2 – 25 July to 2 August 2011 (8 days)

Economy class flights SYD/CNS (2 people)	\$ 652.07
Economy class flights CNS/BSB (2 people)	\$ 652.66
Car & driver from Brisbane to Byron Bay	\$ 270.00
Accommodation – 8 days at \$86	\$ 688.00
Fees: 4 work days at \$300, 2 travel days at \$120	\$1440.00

Total Fees, Accommodation & Travel Expenses: \$7200.37

The ABC ensures that all programs commissioned are thoroughly assessed to make sure they comply with the relevant legislation, funding and ABC policy requirements.

Prior to the ABC commissioning a project, extensive interrogation of the producer's budget and finance plan is undertaken in order to ensure the ABC is obtaining value for money. Throughout commissioning process, budgets are formally assessed and endorsed up to six times by the ABC.

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In addition, throughout negotiations with the producer, budgets and production requirements of the project are analysed and reviewed. In the case of *The Straits*, a reconfiguration of the budget occurred between the pitching of the program to the ABC and the final commission.

Further, the various funding parties investing in the project along with the ABC undertook a similar level of analysis of the production budget (state and federal funding bodies such as Screen Australia, Screen Queensland, Screen Tasmania and Screen NSW). On completion of the production the ABC is contractually obliged to undertake a final external audit of the production costs to ensure all expenditure throughout the production period is appropriate and accounted for. This is also a requirement of any drama production Screen Australia invests in.

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Question No: 42

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 104 (23/05/2012)

Topic: *Auction Room*

Senator Bilyk asked:

Senator BILYK: Do you know how many shows might be in that second series?

Mr Scott: I do not have that detail in front of me. I suspect it would be similar to the number of shows in the first.

Senator BILYK: Could you take that on notice and find out for me?

Mr Scott: Certainly....

Answer:

The second series of *Auction Room* comprises 10 half-hour episodes, the same number of episodes as the first series.

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Question No: 43

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 105 (23/05/2012)

Topic: News clip

Senator Bilyk asked:

Senator BILYK: This is an ABC news clip that I have. I am not sure it was that private.

Mr Scott: Which series was that? Is that *Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed*?

Senator BILYK: It just says 'talking about a new historical factual program in Tasmania'. Is there any movement or anything on that?

Mr Scott: I am not sure. I would have to check on that. That was one we were looking to that we would be making in co-production and would be doing some filming there. I would have to find out details on that.

Senator BILYK: When did *Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed* start? That was last year, wasn't it?

Mr Scott: At the end of last year, I think, yes. Let me find out some more.

Answer:

Series 1 of *Who's Been Sleeping in My House?* commenced production at the end of 2010 and production continued on throughout 2011. The broadcast of the series commenced in late 2011.

ABC TV has a program idea in development with an independent Tasmanian Production company; however, this program idea has not yet been commissioned.

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Question No: 44

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pages 105-106 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Internal programming

Senator Bilyk asked:

Senator BILYK: What percentage of the total production budget will be available for the production of the 75 per cent? What proportion is earmarked for the external component?

Mr Scott: I do not have that figure in front of me, but it is fair to say that it is not 75 per cent. I will explain why. As you will have seen in the figures that we released in the answers on notice, say about *The Slap*—*The Slap* cost more than \$1 million an hour to make. The ABC was contributing around half of that. That is a great example of the leverage that comes with drama—contributions made by Screen Victoria, the state production bodies, Matchbox and others. But the genres that we are mainly involved in working in coproduction around are our most expensive genres. That is drama, documentary and key aspects of our children's slate on ABC3. So the percentage that we are spending on internal production does not represent 75 per cent, because an hour of television is not equal to an hour of television as far as cost is concerned because of the different genres.

Senator BILYK: Are you able to take that on notice and give some information to us?

Mr Scott: Yes.

Senator BILYK: How much has the ABC earmarked for internal production in regional centres over each of the three years—2011, 2012 and 2013?

Mr Scott: I can put that on notice and come back to you on that...

Answer:

The 75% of internal hours referenced in ABC TV's Production Strategy excludes *rage* and news and current affairs content. In total, 80% of TV hours are estimated to be produced internally.

The proportion of the total budget allocated for internal and external productions is as follows:

	Projection	
	2011/12	
Production Type	Hrs	\$
Internal	80%	36%
External	20%	64%

Budget allocations within ABC TV are not specifically allocated to regions or production types. The ABC TV commissioning process is a governance process through which programming decisions are made on the basis of editorial and cultural value. This encompasses a vast amount of

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content produced across the nation with some programs being produced across multiple states and regional areas.

An annual amount of \$7.245 million is allocated to television through the National Interest Initiatives (NII) funding. This funding is spent only against production and services located in, or specifically relevant to, audiences in regional and rural Australia. ABC television exceeds the quota of the allocated funds as a consequence of general programming decisions on a yearly basis.

In 2011/12 ABC television has committed \$31.8 million to production in the regions, which is an increase of approximately 19% from 2010/11. The total production value obtained from the ABC's investment of \$31.8 million in the regions is \$70.9 million. This represents a significant overall increase to production in regional Australia.

TOTAL REGIONAL CONTENT COMMISSIONED 2011/12		
Managing State	TOTAL ABC TELEVISION CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL PRODUCTION BUDGET
ACT	\$1,023,903	\$1,023,903
NT	\$1,697,729	\$3,538,369
QLD	\$8,028,830	\$14,250,193
SA	\$8,287,187	\$21,452,267
TAS	\$1,879,542	\$3,242,076
WA	\$10,892,045	\$27,404,345
Total	\$31,809,236	\$70,911,153

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Question No: 45

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 112 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Women's sport on the ABC

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: But you are still open to looking at women's sport in Tasmania, for example? You talked last time about women's basketball, women's soccer, women's cricket and women's netball. These are areas that are not picked up by the commercials and areas that you have mentioned should be a focus for the ABC. We have all of those in Tasmania, so would you be looking now to fill that void of ABC coverage of the TFL with women's sport in Tasmania?

Mr Scott: I do not have any further details than I have told you at the moment. I am happy to take that on notice. We currently have a series of contracts in place with the major women's sporting codes around the country. We are currently fulfilling those contractual obligations.

Answer:

The ABC's focus is on national women's sports, including cricket (the Southern Stars), basketball (the Opals), soccer (the Matildas) and hockey (the Hockeyroos). The ABC has not been approached by any Tasmanian women's sports organisations to date.

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Question No: 46

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 118 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Coal Seam Gas

Senator Abetz asked:

Mr Scott: There are thousands of data points that we investigated and all the documents that we could find are on the record. As you know, the APPEA thought that there were the best part of 40 errors. We reviewed that material—

Senator ABETZ: I am only talking about the seven—

Mr Scott: About the ones that were upheld. We did that, Senator. I am not aware what the link was back to the documentation that was used as a source, but I can check that on notice for you.

Answer:

The ABC's investigation identified seven material inaccuracies, six of which were found to be in breach of the ABC's accuracy standards.

The first editorial breach found that a graphical presentation of water usage estimates inaccurately attributed the figure to an industry representative, and was misleading in that it did not provide sufficient context to describe how the figure was generated by The Water Group. The input figures were originally published in *Gas Today* and repeated in the government report from The Water Group. The editorial team checked the input figures in The Water Group report against the original *Gas Today* publication but did not check the graphical presentation with an expert.

The second editorial breach related to an inaccurate statement regarding 'make good' arrangements by the Queensland Government. The CSG site drew the statement from a Queensland Farmers Federation submission to a Senate Inquiry referring to their reservations that "make good arrangements have not yet been fully spelt out by government". The error was corrected by providing additional context to clarify that the Queensland Government has provided enforceable provisions for the 'make good' arrangements.

The third editorial breach concerned the presentation of scheduled and unscheduled inspections. The underlying numbers were accurate. They came from the Queensland Department of the Environment and Resource Management (DERM) *CSG/LNG Compliance Plan 2011 Update* which was considered to be a reliable source and no further checking was required. The graphical presentation however was found to be inaccurate as it lacked sufficient context to clarify that unscheduled inspections were in part the result of CSG self-reported incidents. The team did not have the graphical presentation checked by an expert.

The fourth editorial breach concerned inaccurate projection of CO2 emissions for the CSG industry. The ABC published a figure presented in the Queensland Coordinator-General's report on the environmental impact statement of the Australia Pacific LNG Project, and checked that report against the Coordinator-General's source material APLNG Environmental Impact

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Statement Vol 5, Chapter 13 section 8. The editorial team misread the source material which included emissions from non-CSG industries and were deemed to have not made reasonable efforts to verify the material.

The fifth editorial breach concerned failure to note the mitigating impact of environmental offsets in a graphic presentation of the environmental impact of CSG activities. This was an error of omission rather than verification.

The sixth editorial breach similarly concerned inadequate context by omitting context about the ecosystem offsets. This was not a factual error, but rather an error of judgment in deciding what information to include and what to leave out.

The seventh material inaccuracy concerned whether the releases of chemicals met the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines. The editorial team checked an APLNG report with an acknowledged academic expert, and corresponded on the matter with a spokesperson from Queensland's DERM. The editorial team was found to have made reasonable efforts to check accuracy but that notwithstanding these efforts, the information was ambiguous.

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Question No: 47

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 119 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Coal Seam Gas

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER: Mr Scott, does the ABC agree with Stuart Littlemore that you overstated the number of approved wells at 40,000?

Mr Scott: Yes, I think there was a distinction between approved wells and identified sites and that was an area that we corrected.

Senator FISHER: When it was printed wrongly, did you get that wrong figure approved by or checked with the officers from the various state departments that you indicate to Senator Abetz that you check things with and one or more of your independent experts?

Mr Scott: I will have to check on the precise process and the background to that one.

Senator FISHER: Did someone tick off on the mistake or did you just run with it anyway is what I am asking.

Mr Scott: No, the 40,000 figure was a government estimate based on information that had been supplied by the industry. But it was not a statement around 40,000 coal seam gas wells that had been approved. The precise breakdown of how that happened I would have to take on notice. I would not be able to answer that tonight. But that was an issue that we reviewed and acknowledged and corrected on the record.

Senator FISHER: You also agreed, didn't you, that your estimate of water consumption for coal seam gas production was perhaps up to four times more than the real figure?

Mr Scott: I do not have that material here, Senator; I would have to take that—

Senator FISHER: But you agree that was a mistake?

Mr Scott: I think that was another error that we corrected.

Senator FISHER: Did you consult each of the state departments named and one or more of the independent experts about that claim before publication?

Mr Scott: I will have to check that. We were using and interpreting official material that was on the record. But we can try and get more precise detail on it.

Answer:

The ABC's Coal Seam Gas (CSG) website contained a graphical presentation estimating water consumption of 5,400 GL/y for the CSG industry. The relevant input figure was originally published in *Gas Today* and was repeated in the government report from The Water Group. The ABC's Audience & Consumer Affairs unit found the site inaccurately attributed the figure to an industry representative and was misleading in that it did not provide sufficient context to describe how the figure was generated by the Government's Water Group. The ABC CSG website editorial team checked the figure in The Water Group report against the *Gas Today* publication but should have checked the graphical presentation with an expert.

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Question No: 48

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 120 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Data Journalism Awards

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER: Has the ABC nominated itself for the data journalism awards that are run by the London based Global Editors Network?

Mr Scott: There was an enormous amount of detail on the record about this, Senator—

Senator FISHER: Have you?

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

Senator FISHER: Have you nominated yourself?

CHAIR: Order!

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

Senator FISHER: So you do not know?

Mr Scott: Senator, there are hundreds of awards out there—I do not have the detail.

CHAIR: Senator Fisher, Mr Scott said he would take it on notice.

Mr Scott: I will take it on notice, Senator.

Senator FISHER: Thank you. And, if so, who nominated you?

Mr Scott: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Yes, the entry was submitted by Manager of Design and Development in ABC Radio Multiplatform.

It is not unusual for award nominees to enter award nominations themselves. For example, self-nomination occurs for Australia's premier media awards, the Walkley Awards for media excellence.

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Question No: 49

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pages 120-121 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Queensland building opening

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: I am sorry—that was not the question. I asked why wasn't a Christian ceremony thought of given that the vast majority of Australians identify as Christians and what is more even a greater percentage of Australian Aboriginals identify as Christian.

Mr Scott: I am not sure what the origin of the ceremony was. It was a brief ceremony. Our staff, who had been through a lot, valued it. It was a symbolic event with a local Indigenous leader. Nobody who was there—

Senator Conroy: I am sure if there are any more details Mr Scott could take that on notice and come back to you, Senator Abetz...

... **Senator ABETZ:** Was any money paid for this? Can you take that on notice...

Answer:

A traditional smoking ceremony was performed prior to the opening of the new ABC building in Brisbane, in keeping with the understanding that the building occupies traditional Aboriginal land. The ceremony was a sign of cultural respect to those people recognised as traditional owners. Such ceremonies are common where traditional owners are culturally active in the area.

The ceremony was cultural rather than religious and therefore no accommodation was made for any religious ceremony, whether Christian or otherwise.

An artist's performance fee was paid to the Elder who performed the ceremony.

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Question No: 50

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Pages 123-124 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Cheque paid to William Moss

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: All right. In relation to Ms Corby's case—and this is one of the random emails that one gets—

Mr Scott: I have had some random emails.

Senator ABETZ: there is a cheque allegedly paid by the ABC to one William Moss. Are you able to—

Mr Scott: That I am not aware of.

Senator ABETZ: It says, I assume, \$1,000. I do not even know whether it is a genuine article. Can you take that on notice. It is dated 12 April 2012.

Mr Scott: Certainly. We do not draw many cheques like that.

Senator ABETZ: But was a deed of release entered into with one Mr Moss?

Mr Scott: Sorry, I will have to take this on notice. There is a legal issue, so let me come back and look at that. It is a different matter.

Senator ABETZ: As I understand it, the settlement was for legal, court and administrative expenses but I understand that Mr Moss was self-represented, so one wonders where the costs were that amounted to potentially \$1,000 or more.

Mr Scott: There was a legal issue. Let me—

Senator ABETZ: All right, take that on notice...

Answer:

A deed was entered into between the ABC and Mr Moss on 13 April 2012. That deed set out the terms of an agreed settlement of Mr Moss's ongoing defamation claim against the ABC, which commenced in November 2010.

The deed provided that the ABC would pay Mr Moss a sum "on account of legal, court and administrative expenses incurred in the proceedings."

The deed did not require that any sum be paid to Mr Moss on account of damages and no apology or retraction was issued by the ABC.

Settlement was reached after the close of the 3.5 day substantive trial. It was anticipated that the ongoing cost to the ABC of engaging counsel to prepare written submissions and proceed in its defence of the matter would far exceed the proposed settlement amount. The ABC further considered that there would be little prospect of recovery of costs from Mr Moss.

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The ABC considers that costs in the region of \$5,000 can easily be incurred by a self represented litigant in the course of a 17 month court matter. Such costs would potentially include:

- a. Filing fee for originating process - \$926
- b. Filing fee for notice of motion - \$340
- c. Filing fee for 3 subpoenas - \$216
- d. Fee for allocation of hearing date -\$1,850
- e. Fee for hearing over additional 2.5 days before single judge - \$2,211.

Accordingly, the ABC agreed to settle the amount for the sum of \$5000.

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Question No: 51

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 124 (23/05/2012)

Topic: Bitcoin incident

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: ... Can I quickly turn to the Bitcoin incident. Given that the intent was to use the computing power of visitors to an ABC website for personal gain, can you please advise if there were any public notifications on any ABC website about the potential impact of this code on visitors?

Mr Scott: We did discuss this, I think, with you and your office last year. This was detected within minutes, I understand, of it being put there. It was not correctly installed and at no time was there any ever any risk to any of the people who came through to our site.

Senator ABETZ: So did you display any news coverage about this incident?

Mr Scott: I am not sure. There was a blogging reference to it and something else. I am not sure whether we did news coverage.

Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice, please.

Mr Scott: Yes, I will.

Senator ABETZ: And let me know where it might be found on your website.

Answer:

The ABC has determined that as the relevant software was not properly configured, it was unable to achieve its intended aim and it could not have affected the computers of users accessing the *Grandstand* or any other ABC site, during the 30 minutes of the Bitcoin incident.

The ABC considered that it would be contrary to good security policy to publish information about breaches of site security as to do so could reward and encourage hackers or future hackers.

There was no ABC news coverage of this matter.

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Question No: 52

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Bitcoin incident

Senator Abetz asked:

- a. Can you please provide a copy of the offending code (HTML/Javascript etc.) that would have been downloaded by visitors to the Grandstand website?
- b. How many pages on the Grandstand site were affected by the code injection?
- c. How many times were these pages accessed by unique machines while the code was publicly accessible?
- d. Was any external advice sought or any external investigation undertaken relating to the potential impact of this code on end users?
- e. What coverage or public notifications did the ABC publish about this incident and where can this be found on the ABC website?

Answer:

- a. The ABC did not retain the Bitcoin code.
- b. One – the Grandstand front page.
- c. The ABC did not retain the server log files for that period. However, the ABC has determined that as the software was not properly configured, it could not have affected the computers of users accessing the Grandstand or any other ABC site.
- d. No. The ABC was able to identify the issue and remediate through the ABC's own IT Security team.
- e. The ABC considered that it would be contrary to good security policy to publish any information about breaches of site security as this could reward and encourage hackers.

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Question No: 53

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: ABC 774 Media Release

Senator Abetz asked:

Reference is made to the media release issued by the ABC on 11 May 2012 (dated 11 August). Please provide all examples where the ABC issued a media release highlighting Labor Party powerbrokers breaking silence about former friends and political allies.

Answer:

There are no relevant media releases.

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Question No: 54

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Marriage Feature

Senator Abetz asked:

Reference is made to Question number 62 from the Additional Estimates. Please provide the result of inquiries made of the other States about the coverage in evening bulletins of demonstrations in favour of, and against, the definition of marriage.

Answer:

Brief stories on the event on 13 August 2011 in favour of same-sex marriage, and the event on 16 August 2011 against same-sex marriage were available to all newsrooms. Coverage of the events depended on the various competing news priorities in each state at the time.

State or Territory 7pm News	Coverage on 13 August 2011	Coverage on 16 August 2011
NATIONAL	No	No
NEW SOUTH WALES	No	Yes
VICTORIA	Yes	No
QUEENSLAND	No	No
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	No	No
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Yes	No
TASMANIA	No	No
NORTHERN TERRITORY	No	No
ACT	No	Yes

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Question No: 55

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: ABC Television Production Strategy

Senator Bilyk asked:

In the ABC Television Production Strategy, circulated in December 2011, it was stated that ABC TV would implement a new process for receiving and assessing projects put forward by ABC staff and that guidelines would be placed on the intranet.

- a. Has this occurred yet? If not can you please advise when this will be completed and made available to staff?
- b. Is it correct that there was to be a six week response on submissions and has this goal been met consistently?
- c. Can you please list how many times this goal was not reached and the total number of submissions received?

Answer:

- a. Yes. ABC TV's Internal Programme Submission Guidelines process has been formalised and the Guidelines were published on the ABC intranet on 20 June 2012. In addition, the ABC's databases have been amended in order to collate all internal program ideas submissions.
- b. At the time of preparing this answer, the process has been in place for less than six weeks.
- c. The ABC has received 5 internal program idea submissions. They are currently in the process of being assessed.

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Question No: 56

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staff production ideas

Senator Bilyk asked:

To date there appears to be no formal process for the assessment of staff production ideas.

- a. How has feedback been given to those production ideas put up by staff members (especially in relation to Tasmanian production staff)?
- b. What sort of ideas are you looking for considering none of the ideas from production staff in Tasmania have been deemed appropriate?
- c. When internal submission/pitches are considered how does the ABC approach the issue of lack of access to Producer offsets?

Answer:

As outlined in the answer to Question on Notice No. 55, ABC TV's Internal Program Submission Guidelines (the Guidelines) process has been formalised and the Guidelines are published on the ABC intranet. In addition, the ABC's databases have been amended to collate all internal program ideas submissions.

- a. At the time of writing, 5 internal program idea submissions have been received. They are in the process of being assessed and the ABC will respond within the timeframe set out in the Guidelines. No formal submissions have been received from staff in Tasmania.
- b. The Guidelines set out detail regarding the strategic production priorities for the ABC. This includes guidance regarding the priority to be given to Australian and audience-focused productions, the key genres to be targeted, the importance of targeting indigenous content and content which represents Australia's cultural diversity and the ABC's responsibility to produce children's content. The Guidelines also note that decision-making will be influenced by the need to ensure maximum efficiency in the use of the ABC's scarce resources.
- c. The ABC will consider all internal program submissions and as part of that assessment will consider the available funding sources.

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Question No: 57

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Regional production

Senator Bilyk asked:

The December 2011 statement stated that the ABC is committed to regional production and that it had invested \$88M in regional productions.

- a. How much has the ABC earmarked for internal production in regional centres over each of the three years of the 2011, 2012, 2013 Production Strategy?
- b. How many jobs were lost to date as a result of the decision to cut ABC programming in 2011?
- c. How many staff by classification and state were made redundant in 2010-2011 and in the YTD FY?
- d. What is the anticipated number of redundancies for 2011-2012 by classification and state?
- e. What is the total cost of redundancy payments in 2010-2011 and YTD FY?
- f. What is the anticipated cost of redundancies for 2011-2012?

Answer:

- a. Refer to the answer to Question on Notice 44.
- b. 44 staff have been made redundant as a result of the ABC TV announcements made in 2011.
- c. 2010-2011 = 0 redundancies

2011-2012 = 44 redundancies to date as follows:

NSW	19 staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x Executive Producers• 1 x Production Manager• 4 x Producers• 4 x Researchers• 2 x Field Camera Operators• 1 x Field Sound Operator• 2 x Studio/OB Camera Operators• 2 x Editors
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Designer
VIC	14 staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Series Producer • 1 x Presenter/Producer • 5 x Producers • 4 x Researchers • 1 x Production Co-ordinator • 1 x Director's Assistant • 1 x Editor
WA	8 staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Series Producer • 1 x Producer • 1 x Researcher • 2 x Production Co-ordinators • 1 x Administrative Assistant • 2 x Editors
SA	3 staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series Producers

- d. All planned redundancies for 2011/12 were finalised as at 25 June 2012.
- e. 2010-2011: Not applicable
 2011-2012: 44 redundancies. Cost of redundancy payments was \$5,442,000
- f. Refer to d. above.

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Question No: 58

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Programming

Senator Bilyk asked:

What are the number of hours and costs of total programs commissioned for 2012 by genre, and by branch (excluding RAGE) shown by (i) hours and (ii) cost?

Answer:

ABC TV's commissioning process is applied across all content nationwide and is not delineated by branch. Excluding *rage* and promotions ABC TV's total production value and hours commissioned by genre in 2011/12 is detailed below.

TOTAL COMMISSIONED 2011/12			
GENRE COMMISSIONED	TOTAL TV HOURS	TOTAL ABC TELEVISION CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL PRODUCTION BUDGET
Arts & Culture	61.25	\$9,573,096	\$12,634,262
Children's	359.6	\$32,486,246	\$73,100,636
Documentary	62.35	\$9,730,523	\$28,576,083
Drama	92.72	\$58,712,857	\$99,039,224
Entertainment	109.8	\$26,802,147	\$26,979,680
Environment/Natural History	1	\$150,000	\$600,000
Factual	295.9	\$29,611,368	\$33,219,696
Indigenous	14.25	\$3,063,187	\$7,318,616
Religion & Ethics	13	\$3,656,276	\$3,656,276
Sport	616.72	\$17,479,449	\$19,356,390
Grand Total	1626.59	\$191,265,149	\$304,480,863

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Question No: 59

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Programming

Senator Bilyk asked:

What are the number of hours and costs of external (including co-produced) programs commissioned for 2012 by genre, and by branch (excluding RAGE) shown by (i) hours and (ii) cost?

Answer:

The commissioning process is not delineated by branch. Excluding *rage* and promotions the total production value and hours of external programming (including co-productions) commissioned by genre in 2011/12 is detailed below.

EXTERNAL TOTAL COMMISSIONED 11/12			
GENRE COMMISSIONED	TOTAL TV HOURS	TOTAL ABC TELEVISION CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL PRODUCTION BUDGET
Arts & Culture	15.5	\$3,601,699	\$6,432,237
Children's	165.9	\$18,715,649	\$59,330,039
Documentary	59.5	\$9,505,396	\$28,350,956
Drama	92.72	\$58,712,857	\$99,039,224
Entertainment	51.5	\$21,142,519	\$21,320,052
Environment/Natural History	1	\$150,000	\$600,000
Factual	20	\$9,016,475	\$12,474,803
Indigenous	8.75	\$1,155,000	\$5,410,429
Sport	28.5	\$2,901,668	\$2,901,668
Grand Total	443.37	\$124,901,263	\$235,859,408

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Question No: 60

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Local sport

Senator Birmingham asked:

- a. Is production of local sport done in house?
- b. Are there cheaper ways than the average \$1.6 million cost per competition per year?
- c. How have costs varied this year compared to previous years?

Answer:

- a. With some exceptions the production of local sport is done internally by the ABC.
- b. ABC coverage of regional football competitions costs an average of \$1.6 million per competition per year. The ABC considers that production requirements of this type of coverage are extensive and could not be further reduced from current levels without significant impact to occupational health and safety requirements and the overall quality of the coverage.
- c. The cost of regional football coverage has remained relatively static since 2009 at approximately \$1.6 million per code per year.

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Question No: 61

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Foreign Correspondents

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has there been any variation to the number of foreign correspondents the ABC employs (18)? Is there expected to be?

Answer:

The ABC has no current plans to reduce its number of foreign correspondents.

The maintenance of a significant international reporting team is a resource-intensive activity, which requires continual review in light of changing international editorial demands and priorities, and operational budget priorities.

The recent review of ABC News's international operations was designed to make future options for international coverage as flexible and appropriate as possible.

In this review, the proposed make up of the ABC's 18 correspondents was changed slightly, and a higher degree of flexibility was introduced to allow for the location of ABC correspondents overseas to be adjusted to take account of editorial priorities.

The ABC notes that the figure of 18 foreign correspondents excludes additional dedicated correspondents working out of ABC bureaux for the Australia Network, and it also excludes the locally-hired producers, researchers, translators and other support staff employed in ABC bureaux internationally.

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Question No: 62

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australian Content

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail, for each of ABC 1, ABC 2 and ABC 3, how many hours of first release Australian content have been shown over the past year. How does this compare with each of the last 4 years?

Answer:

ABC1 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	TOTAL HOURS
2007/08	2915
2008/09	2950
2009/10	2924
2010/11	3037
2011/12	3586

ABC2 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	TOTAL HOURS
2007/08	609
2008/09	1039
2009/10	1019
2010/11	761
2011/12	331

ABC3 First Australian Release Content Broadcast*	TOTAL HOURS
2011/12	656

*ABC3 figures include Australian produced interstitials. Transmission statistics for prior years on ABC3 are not available as the process of migrating and reconciling data following the implementation of a new broadcast management system has not been completed.

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Question No: 63

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australian Content

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail, for each of ABC 1, ABC 2 and ABC 3, how many hours of news and current affairs have been shown over the past year. How does this compare with each of the last 4 years?

Answer:

ABC1 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	News & Current Affairs hours
2008/09	1206
2009/10	1131
2010/11	1292
2011/12	2045

ABC2 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	New & Current Affairs hours
2008/09	733
2009/10	836
2010/11	608
2011/12	0

ABC3 First Australian Release Content Broadcast*	New & Current Affairs
2011/12	104

* Transmission statistics for prior years on ABC3 are not available as the process of migrating and reconciling data following the implementation of a new broadcast management system has not been completed.

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Question No: 64

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australian Content

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail, for each of ABC 1, ABC 2 and ABC 3, how many hours of sport have been shown over the past year. How does this compare with each of the last 4 years?

Answer:

ABC 1 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	Sport hours
2007/08	243
2008/09	254
2009/10	223
2010/11	210
2011/12 YTD (to March 2012*)	175

ABC2 First Australian Release Content Broadcast	Sport hours
2007/08	91
2008/09	134
2009/10	26
2010/11	23
2011/12 YTD (to March 2012*)	16

* The remainder of the data for the 11/12 transmission statistics is not yet available. These figures do not represent a full broadcast year.

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Question No: 65

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australian Content

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please detail, for each of ABC 1, ABC 2 and ABC 3, how many hours of foreign produced content have been shown over the past year. How does this compare with each of the last 4 years?

Answer:

ABC1 Overseas Content Broadcast (as per Annual Reports)	Overseas Hours
2008/09	3603
2009/10	3501
2010/11	3557
2011/12	2935

ABC2 Overseas Content Broadcast (as per Annual Reports)	Overseas Hours
2008/09	3518
2009/10	4568
2010/11	5070
2011/12	5394

ABC3* Overseas Content Broadcast	Overseas Hours
2011/12	2757

* Transmission statistics for prior years on ABC3 are not available as the process of migrating and reconciling data following the implementation of a new broadcast management system has not been completed.

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Question No: 66

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australian Content

Senator Birmingham asked:

Based on the approach outlined in Broadcasting Services Australian Content Standard, what is the drama score for all first release drama programs broadcast by the ABC overall in 2011? What is the score for all first release drama programs broadcast in prime time in 2011? How does this compare to the previous 3 years?

Answer:

The ABC is not required to adhere to the *Broadcasting Services (Australian Content) Standard 2005*. The ABC adheres to a different set of standards as set out in its Charter and as provided for by the quantum of ABC funding.

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Question No: 67

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Program Rights

Senator Birmingham asked:

What programs has the ABC lost broadcast rights to over the last year?

Answer:

Broadcast rights apply to all content, acquired, pre-purchased, produced, and co-produced. The ABC negotiates various clauses and options in all contracts relating to the re-license or extension of rights if not fully owned. These rights are renewed or extended according to the needs of the schedule.

Numerous options have been exercised and some have been lost, primarily through competition with other networks. Due to the increase in free-to-air digital channels the market has become more competitive in regards to acquired content, resulting in a significant increase in costs.

Flagship acquisitions that would traditionally be identified as ABC style content such as *Downton Abbey*, *The Graham Norton Show* and *David Attenborough: Madagascar* were lost to commercial networks which paid at least double what the ABC was able to offer. ABC TV does not retain a record of broadcast rights lost.

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Question No: 68

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Program Rights

Senator Birmingham asked:

How does the ABC budget for purchasing broadcasting rights to foreign produced content? Has this budget changed over the past 3 years? How?

Answer:

ABC TV content budgets are not allocated according to the source of the production. Editorial decisions are based on a combination of factors including price and content availability.

ABC TV's acquisitions budget for the past 3 years is as follows:

	2009/10 <i>\$'000</i>	2010/11 <i>\$'000</i>	2011/12 <i>\$'000</i>
ABC1 & ABC2 Acquisitions Budgets	32,581	30,700	29,665
Children's (incl education)	8,200	8,200	8,200

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Question No: 69

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Newsgathering Project

Senator Cameron asked:

In relation to the Newsgathering Project Update to staff from Director ABC News on 17 May 2012:

- (i) How will the restructure will be implemented and what it does it mean in practice including for example how and where staff allocations will be changed; the level and experience of staffing?
- (ii) Can you provide assurances that there will be no loss of quality of news on any platform, no loss of experienced staff, diversity and localism?

Answer:

- (i) The ABC is currently considering the range of proposals and recommendations which arose from the Newsgathering Project undertaken by ABC News. To date, there have been no proposals for change developed. Any proposal for any kind of restructure or reorganisation resulting from the project, should it arise, will be communicated to staff and will be subject to appropriate consultation.
- (ii) The aim of ABC News's Newsgathering Project was to determine the best way of delivering quality news to Australian audiences across a range of platforms, and in particular how best to organise newsgathering to support that aim. No aspect of the project was intended to result in a reduction in the quality of news content, or to result in a loss of experience, diversity or localism.

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Question No: 70

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Editorial Control

Senator Cameron asked:

In relation to editorial control in outsourced program production, it has been reported that a defamation matter in relation to Paper Giants has been settled out of court.

- (i) Who pays for the cost of defending such actions and settlements – the private production company or the ABC itself?
- (ii) Is the ABC's editorial control and contractual arrangements sufficiently robust to protect the ABC's and hence the public interest?

Answer:

- (i) With few exceptions, standard requirements in ABC co-production contracts require the producer to indemnify the ABC against any costs, damages or liability arising from legal claims. In relation to the Paper Giants dispute, the settlement amount (inclusive of the plaintiff's legal costs) as well as the costs of the law firm engaged to act on the matter for the ABC and the producer were paid by the producer. No amount was paid by the ABC.
- (ii) Yes. Please refer to part (i) above. In addition, in accordance with the ABC's Editorial Policies and the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*, the ABC maintains overarching editorial control of co-productions at all times. This is reinforced in the ABC's contractual arrangements with relevant producers. It is also standard practice for the ABC to place contractual obligations on the producer of a program to accurately research and verify factual content included in the program. This was the case in relation to the Paper Giants series. The ABC also reviews program material and where relevant or appropriate will ask questions of the producer to reduce any risk of error.

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Question No: 71

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: *I can change your mind....about climate*

Senator Cameron asked:

The '*I can change your mind....about climate*' program on ABC TV was promoted as a documentary. Given the widely accepted science on global warming should it have been promoted as an entertainment program?

Answer:

I Can Change Your Mind....About Climate investigated a controversial issue through the eyes of two people divided in their opinions on the causes of climate change. This program sought to reflect the difference of opinion within Australia, not necessarily as an argument about science, but as a constructive discussion about why people believe what they do. This documentary undertook to have two people with very different views take a journey in the footsteps of their ideological opponent.

The ABC considers a documentary to be "a creative treatment of actuality other than news, current affairs, sport, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program".

This is consistent with the Australian Communications and Media Authority's definition of a documentary. Programs in this genre can be of any duration and include a narrative arc and/or development of characters across a series or through the individual documentary. Documentaries may include contemporary or historical content. *I can change your mind....about climate* fell within these parameters.

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Question No: 72

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Infotainment

Senator Cameron asked:

Is the ABC promoting the outsourced 'infotainment' programs more than the serious programs traditionally produced in-house? If so, why?

Answer:

ABC TV does not promote co-produced or externally produced entertainment programs any more than factual programs.

The allocation of promotional slots by ABC TV is not determined by the production model or genre of the program. Slots are determined by priorities across the channels and the need to ensure audiences are adequately informed.

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Question No: 73

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Real Time Audio Description

Senator Fifield asked:

1. On what date will the trial commence?
2. What specific programming on ABC1 will be included in the trial?
3. Will the trial also be available where services are delivered via third parties such as Foxtel, TransACT, AUSTAR and VAST?
4. Who will be providing real time audio description services? Where will they be located?
5. Will there be a feedback option during the trial?
6. Through what mechanism can feedback be provided?
7. When will the ABC provide a report on feedback received during the trial?

Answer:

1. 5 August 2012.
2. The following programs will be broadcast with Audio Description on ABC1:

Sunday 5 August

- 5:00pm - Nature's Great Events
- 7:30pm - Grand Designs Revisited
- 8:30pm - Birdsong
- 9:50pm - Inspector George Gently

Monday 6 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Grand Designs

Tuesday 7 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 8:30pm - Three Men Go To Scotland

Wednesday 8 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By

Thursday 9 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Monty Don's Italian Gardens
- 8:30pm - Midsomer Murders

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Friday 10 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Grand Designs
- 8:30pm - Silent Witness
- 9:30pm - Taggart

Saturday 11 August

- 8:30pm - Kidnap and Ransom
- 9:20pm - Hustle

Sunday 12 August

- 5:00pm – Nature’s Great Events
- 7:30pm - Grand Designs Revisited
- 8:30pm - Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple
- 9.50pm - Inspector George Gently

Monday 13 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Grand Designs

Tuesday 14 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 8:30pm - Three Men Go To Venice
- 10:00pm - Inland Heart: The Photography of Jeff Carter

Wednesday 15 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By

Thursday 16 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Monty Don’s Italian Gardens
- 8:30pm - Midsomer Murders

Friday 17 August

- 5:30pm - As Time Goes By
- 6:00pm - Grand Designs
- 8:30pm - Scott and Bailey
- 9:15pm - Taggart

Saturday 18 August

- 8:30pm - Agatha Christie’s Poirot
- 10:00pm - Hustle

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The schedule will be available online at:

http://www.abc.net.au/tv/connect/audio_description.htm and will be updated as ABCTV's schedule is confirmed.

3. No. The service will only be available on the ABC's digital terrestrial service (ABC1 only). This is consistent with the parameters of the trial.
4. The ABC notes the reference to 'real time' audio-description services. The ABC is not aware of the existence of 'real time' audio-description services. Audio-description is created in advance of a program's broadcast, and there is a significant lead-time required to accommodate production of the audio-description (for example, some weeks in advance, depending on the program).
5. Yes.
6. Participants in the trial may provide feedback on the trial by contacting the ABC on 1800 616 882 to take part in a survey, or by providing general feedback on ABC's general Feedback and Enquires page at **<http://about.abc.net.au/talk-to-the-abc/feedback-and-enquiries/>**
7. The ABC will provide the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy with a report on the technical trial by the end of 2012.

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Question No: 74

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Coal Seam Gas

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Who nominated the ABC 'Coal Seam Gas by the numbers' project for the 'Data-driven investigation, national/international award' at the London-based Global Editors Network Data Journalism Awards?
- b. When was the nomination submitted?
- c. At the time of nomination, had ABC covered, by way of data journalism, only coal seam gas or other issues as well?
 - o If yes, please describe them.
- d. Was there either a nomination fee or resource cost in arranging and submitting the nomination together?
 - o If yes, what was the total cost of the nomination?
- e. Did anyone from the ABC attend, or was the ABC represented at the awards ceremony in Paris on 30 May?
- f. If yes, what was the cost of sending or having a representative?
- g. Did the ABC get recognised in any way at the awards ceremony, or in the awards in general, and if so, how? What was the formal feedback about the ABC's entry?

Answer:

The ABC refers to its response to Senate Estimates Question No. 48.

- a. The Manager of Design and Development in ABC Radio Multiplatform.
- b. April 2012.
- c. Coal Seam Gas was the ABC's first major data journalism project. Other examples include interactive graphics produced by ABC News Online around the recent budget using widely released budget and economic data, and triple j's interactive graphics based on the Hottest 100 data.
- d. There was no fee or additional resource cost associated with the nomination. The nomination was prepared and submitted by a member of staff in the normal course of their duties.

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- e. No.
- f. Not applicable.
- g. The ABC is listed in the nominees on the awards website. There was no formal feedback on the ABC's entry.

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Question No: 75

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. A total of 151 permanent staff were recruited this financial year to 3 June 2012 at the classifications shown below:

PERMANENT STAFF RECRUITED			
20 June 2011 - 3 June 2012			
Staff Levels	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Administrative/Professional Band 2		3	3
Administrative/Professional Band 3	3		3
Administrative/Professional Band 4	6	1	7
Administrative/Professional Band 5	9		9
Administrative/Professional Band 6	5	1	6
Administrative/Professional Band 7	5	1	6
Administrative/Professional Band 8	4	1	5
Administrative/Professional Band 9	1		1
Content Maker Band 2	5		5
Content Maker Band 3	4	2	6
Content Maker Band 4	20		20
Content Maker Band 5	19		19
Content Maker Band 6	9		9
Content Maker Band 7	7	1	8
Content Maker Band 8	3		3
Content Maker Band 9	3		3
Head Office Manager Grade 1	1		1
Senior Executive Band 1	1		1
Senior Executive Band 2	3		3
Senior Executive Band 3	1		1
Shop Assistant		11	11
Shop Manager Grade C	3		3
Shop Manager Grade D	1		1
Technologist Band 3	1		1
Technologist Band 4	1		1
Technologist Band 5	4		4
Technologist Band 6	1		1
Technologist Band 7	4		4
Technologist Band 8	3		3
Technologist Band 9	3		3
Total	130	21	151

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- b. Five hundred and seventy eight 578 temporary positions exist at 3 June 2012 at the classifications shown below.

TEMPORARY POSITIONS EXISTING			
as at 3 June 2012			
Staff Levels	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Administrative/Professional Band 1	2		2
Administrative/Professional Band 2		3	3
Administrative/Professional Band 3	12	5	17
Administrative/Professional Band 4	18	9	27
Administrative/Professional Band 5	15	11	26
Administrative/Professional Band 6	8	2	10
Administrative/Professional Band 7	13		13
Administrative/Professional Band 8	8	2	10
Administrative/Professional Band 9	3	3	6
Content Maker Band 1	5		5
Content Maker Band 2	16	1	17
Content Maker Band 3	41	10	51
Content Maker Band 4	75	17	92
Content Maker Band 5	64	19	83
Content Maker Band 6	53	14	67
Content Maker Band 7	36	5	41
Content Maker Band 8	19	3	22
Content Maker Band 9	17	4	21
Retail Head Office Manager Level 1	2		2
Retail Shop Assistant		2	2
Senior Executive Band 1	12	3	15
Senior Executive Band 2	8	2	10
Senior Executive Band 3	8		8
Senior Executive Band 4	5		5
Technologist Band 1	2	1	3
Technologist Band 3	1	1	2
Technologist Band 4	5		5
Technologist Band 5	2		2
Technologist Band 6	3		3
Technologist Band 7	2		2
Technologist Band 8	5		5
Technologist Band 9	1		1
Total	461	117	578

- c. For the financial year to 3 June 2012 912 employees have been employed on contract. The average length of their employment period is 140 days.

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Question No: 76

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

Please list the SES positions you have in your department/agency in the years this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer:

The ABC does not use the SES classification system.

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

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Question No: 77

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please detail costs and what the training is.

Answer:

There were no graduates recruited within the ABC this calendar year.

The News cadetship is open to graduates, but not exclusively. It is not a graduate program as would be found in other organisations.

There is no formal training provided for news cadets after their 12 month cadetship ends.

Once staff have completed their cadetship, they have access to the full range of training offered to ABC staff.

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Question No: 78

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Fisher asked:

What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

The ABC did not recruit any graduates in 2012.

As noted in the answer to Question No 77, the ABC news cadet program is open to graduates.

The total cost of recruitment for 2012 news cadets was \$640 (the cost of placing an advertisement on seek.com).

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Question No: 79

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
- b. 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.
- c. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- d. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
- e. 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.
- f. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
- g. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

Not applicable.

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

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Question No: 80

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- b. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- c. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- d. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
- e. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved

Answer:

- a. The ABC considers hospitality to be a subset of its entertainment expenditure in accordance with the ABC's Entertainment and Functions policy. The ABC may also spend relatively small amounts of money on promoting new content or services in order to generate an audience. This is considered separate to hospitality and is monitored as part of promotions and marketing.
- b. The ABC has spent \$446,000 on entertainment for the financial year to 31 May 2012. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.
- c. Refer to (a) above.
- d. The ABC is forecasting to spend in total \$468,000 on entertainment in 2011-12. It is not feasible to separately identify items of entertainment due to the high volume and small nature of the transactions.
- e. The Corporation reviews expenditure on entertainment as part of regular budget monitoring and management.

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Question No: 81

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- c. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?
- d. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- a. The ABC has not sought or received advice from any third parties on how to respond to FOI requests. In preparing responses to requests for access to documents under the FOI Act, advice is routinely sought from the ABC's Director of Legal and the ABC's Legal and Business Affairs Division.
- b. 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. The Annual Statistical Return for 2011-12 is not yet due and has not been prepared.
- c. Between 1 July 2011 and 23 May 2012, the ABC received 19 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of the 19 requests:
 - 3 were granted in full;
 - 1 was granted in part;
 - 10 were refused;
 - 1 was dealt with outside of the FOI process;
 - 2 were withdrawn;
 - 2 are pending.Of the 15 requests which required a response (that is, excluding the withdrawn and pending requests), 11 requests were completed within the applicable statutory time period, and 4 were completed within 30 calendar days after the applicable statutory time period.
- d. Provisions to issue conclusive certificates were repealed by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009*.

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Question No: 82

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. 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.
- b. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

- a. There have been 67 consultancies undertaken in this financial year to date. Details on these consultants are as follows:

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$
Below \$10,000		
Various	Various	124,557
Sub total		<u>124,557</u>
\$10,000-\$50,000		
Risk And Injury Management Services Pty Ltd	Risk assessment and analysis	12,000
Australian Catholic University Limited	Technical advice	12,250
^Garnsey, Robert	International development projects	12,750
Bendelta Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	12,902
E-Secure Pty Ltd	Security risk assessment and advice	13,250
^Roberts, Margarette	International development projects	13,302
KPMG	Financial services	13,648
Professional Financial Consulting Pty Ltd	Technical advice	13,690
CRS Australia	Risk assessment and analysis	14,644
Kyte, Steve	Technical advice	15,421
^L. Pirpir	International development projects	15,909
M-Squared Media Pty Ltd	Technical advice	20,000
Dynamiq Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	22,500
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Tax advice	24,250

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Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$
John McCarthy	Broadcast review	25,000
^Mackod Pty Ltd	International development projects	25,500
^Jean-Gabriel Manguy	International development projects	27,524
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Technical advice	30,000
CB Richard Ellis Limited	Property advice and services	33,190
Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Pty Ltd	Heritage management plans	33,535
Frazer Walker Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	36,000
Graham, Peter	Strategic advice	36,000
Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Limited	Strategic advice	36,300
The trustee for Deloitte Access Economics Trust	Strategic advice	38,000
Invisible Hand Consulting Pty. Ltd	Strategic advice	38,040
Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	46,434
Sub total		<u>622,039</u>
Above \$50,000		
McGees Property (NSW) Pty Ltd	Property valuation services	54,450
Risk Logic Pty Ltd	Strategic review	58,846
BDO (NSW-VIC) Pty Ltd	Strategic advice	68,300
IT Newcom Pty Limited	Strategic advice	82,560
Radio New Zealand Limited	Technical advice	93,817
Venture Consulting Pty Limited	Strategic advice	300,515
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Strategic advice and internal audit services	397,159
InterMedia UK	Strategic advice	399,747
L.E.K. Consulting	Strategic advice and review	1,346,778
Sub total		<u>2,802,172</u>
Grand total		<u><u>3,548,768</u></u>

Notes:

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

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

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

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With regards to the method of procurement, the ABC's procurement policy, which complies with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, was applied to the above consultancies.

- b. It is not feasible to detail significant consultancies in advance.

The ABC's Annual Procurement Plan reflects known procurement projects at the time the plan is updated. This plan is no longer published on the AusTender website following advice from AusTender that this was not required. The procurement process for any future projects will follow the ABC's procurement policy and will be in accordance with the process outlined in question b, above.

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Question No: 83

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Fisher asked:

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

- a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- b. What is the estimated budget to provide the same services for the year 2012-13?

Answer:

For the financial year to 31 May 2012, the total cost of media monitoring, transcripts and press clipping services for the ABC was \$190,000.

- a. Media Monitors.
- b. The ABC has reviewed its media monitoring service with a view to more effectively managing its budget. The ABC expects the cost of media monitoring services in 2012-13 to be \$65,000.

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Question No: 84

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

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

The ABC, as a media entity, has reasons for engaging with social media which are both more specific and more complex than non-media entities in the public sector. It is the ABC's nature as a media entity, as well as its independence, which leads the ABC to tailor its own policies in relation to the use of social media. The ABC notes the fundamental similarity between the ABC's Social Media Policy and the Australian Public Service Commission's approach in so far as both are concerned to maintain independence and integrity.

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Question No: 85

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date:

1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
4. 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).
5. 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).
6. 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).
7. 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).
8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.
10. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

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Answer:

1-10) The ABC has used two of the abovementioned companies in this financial year to date. The ABC has used a company called Ikon Communications for radio promotions towards the end of April 2012 totalling \$38,733.55. There are no current plans to use Ikon Communications again for services in the future, however it remains a possibility.

The ABC has also used a company named Cutting Edge for services totalling \$1,045 in August 2011 related to the hire of broadcast equipment. Records show that the ABC has typically engaged Cutting Edge for the use of their equipment hire services once or twice a year, and this may be expected to continue in the future. Expenditure is not expected to be significant. At this stage none of the other companies are expected to be used.

It is not practical to provide a list of contractors (including description and cost) as to compile this information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. The ABC compiles and publishes a list of consultants engaged in its Annual Report. The current Annual Report is being compiled and will be available upon tabling in Parliament.

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Question No: 86

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?

- 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:

- a. Please refer to part (a) of the answer to Additional Budget Estimates Question on Notice 105 (February 2012).

Between 1 July 2011 and 15 June 2012 (inclusive) the ABC made 759 payments to consultants and contractors amounting to \$18.3 million, of which 567 transactions (75%) totalling \$14.8 million (81%) 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. Please refer to part (b) of the answer to Additional Budget Estimates Question on Notice 105 (February 2012).
- c. Please refer to part (c) of the answer to Additional Budget Estimates Question on Notice 105 (February 2012).

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Question No: 87

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Stationery Requirements

Senator Fisher asked:

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

What was the department/agency's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Answer:

Stationery expenditure the financial year to 15 June 2012 was \$1,045,118.

Stationery expenditure for 2009/10 and 2010/11 was:

- 2009/10 \$1,263,192
- 2010/11 \$1,117,046

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Question No: 88

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a. If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1.
 - a. No.
 - b. The financial year to date expenditure as at 31 May 2012 was \$174,000.

2.
 - a. No.
 - b. The financial year to date expenditure as at 31 May 2012 was \$723,000 for newspapers and magazines. (It is not feasible to split this total cost between magazines and newspapers as there is a high volume of low value transactions and most are paid by procurement card).

3.
 - a. No.
 - b. Refer to the answer to 2(b) above.

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Question No: 89

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

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).

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 this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.

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

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.

Answer

The ABC spent a total of \$17.3 million on travel for the financial year to 31 May 2012. Domestic travel spend was \$12.7 million and international travel spend was \$4.6 million (including excess baggage).

The majority of domestic travel currently is undertaken by ABC content divisions and is primarily in relation to news gathering and program making.

The majority of international travel is undertaken by News, Television and ABC's International Division staff, in particular to cover news stories or in relation to production, the Australia Network or AusAid funded activities.

Details of expenditure by division, domestic, international airfares, accommodation, allowances and excess baggage is shown below.

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2011/12 DOMESTIC TRAVEL EXPENDITURE

Description	Period 11 YTD Actual 11/12
Airfares - Domestic	4,370,840
Allowances - Domestic	2,358,150
Accommodation - Domestic	2,757,539
Domestic taxis and pva	2,469,269
Travel Entitlements (9/B/4) under the Enterprise Agreement	173,300
Domestic Other (eg train fares and car hire)	540,651
Total Domestic Travel Expenditure	12,669,749

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Divisional breakdown of domestic travel expenditure is set out below.

By Division \$A(k)	P11 2011/12
ABC Commercial	340
ABC Resources	621
Business Services	235
Chief Operating Officer	130
Board/MD	307
Capital Works	537
International	391
Corporate Affairs	194
Corporate Wide Initiatives	448
Editorial Policies	47
Innovation	97
Legal & Business Affairs	30
News	3,035
People & Learning	221
Radio	2,863
Technology	595
Communication Networks	133
Television	2,408
Marketing & Audience Research	39
TOTAL	12,671

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2011/12 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURE

Description	Period 11 YTD Actual 11/12
Airfares - International	1,878,544
Allowances - International	2,144,213
International Other (eg train fares and car hire)	592,295
Total International Travel Expenditure	4,615,052
Excess Baggage	45,517
Total Other	45,517
Total ABC Travel Expenditure	4,660,569

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

By Division \$A(k)	P11 2011/12
ABC Commercial	181
ABC Resources	1
Business Services	2
Chief Operating Officer	30
Board/MD	119
Capital Works	53
International	939
Corporate Affairs	2
Corporate Wide Initiatives	28
Editorial Policies	32
Innovation	5
Legal & Business Affairs	0
News	2,392
People & Learning	4
Radio	199
Technology	3
Communication Networks	0
Television	672
Marketing & Audience Research	(0)
TOTAL	4,662

The ABC operates under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and is therefore exempt from the 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. However, the ABC's Travel Policy provides that inflexible tickets should be booked for all outbound journeys. The ABC also aims to book inflexible airline tickets for at least 50% of all inbound journeys.

136 ABC employees are provided with bronze or silver Qantas Club memberships. The cost of these memberships is currently \$40,800.

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

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Question No: 90

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. The ABC spent a total of \$5.4 million on internal legal services and external legal advice to the end of May 2012. This amount relates largely to matters of employment law, commercial law, media law and property law.

The division of costs is as follows:

Internal legal advice	\$4.2 million
External legal advice from private law firms	\$0.9 million
Other legal services (mainly Barristers)	<u>\$0.3 million</u>
Total	\$5.4 million

- b. Nil.
- c. The ABC spent \$0.9 million on specialist legal advice from private firms to the end of May 2012, relating to mainly employment law (\$0.1 million), commercial law (\$0.2 million), media law (\$0.3 million) and property law (\$0.3 million).
- d. The ABC spent \$0.3 million on legal services from other sources (mainly barristers) to the end of May 2012 relating to advice and/or court representation in relation to media and copyright law and regulation.

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Question No: 91

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Fisher asked:

What are the department/agency's guidelines on study? Please provide details.

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:

The ABC's study policy sets out the Corporation's commitment to encouraging and supporting employees, who wish to pursue further studies or qualifications to enhance their contribution to the ABC, increase their skills and expand their employability within the ABC.

Employees who wish to undertake or who are undertaking further studies or qualifications that will be directly relevant to the employee's current position, or to an agreed career progression within the Corporation, may request Study Assistance.

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

The table below details training activity for the period July 2011 – May 2012 by category, duration and participation.

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

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

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Category	Duration Total (hours)	Participants
Broadcast Operations	892.75	45
Broadcasting Technical	690.77	106
Business Skills	1510.85	239
Cross Media Production	2999.47	1264
Desktop Applications - Audio	789	101
Editorial Policy	569.99	477
Equity & Diversity	1686.7	750
Finance	696.35	212
Graphic Design	167.3	17
Human Resources	1119.35	341
Information Management (Archives)	1720.8	175
Legal	776.7	277
Management	1905.5	382
Marketing	5	5
News Reporting	5191.18	786
OH&S	4288.49	1317
PC Skills - MS Office	28	186.8
Project Management	659	87
Publishing	16	1
Radio Production*	11092.19	2606
Retail	2659	53
Training	894.5	81
TV & Video Post Production	5028.95	337
TV & Video Production	13251.27	507
Web Production	3966.2	1049

Total hrs: 62,605.31

* Includes radio air checks

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

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Question No: 92

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Senator Fisher asked:

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

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

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

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (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)

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

- I. The location used
- II. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- III. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- IV. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

1. Between July 2011 and May 2012, \$82,200 was spent on executive coaching and other leadership training services.
2. 52 Executive Level 1 and above staff were selected to attend these services.
3. 30 Executive Level 2 and above staff and 22 Executive Level 1 staff attended these courses.

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4. Service Providers engaged were externally appointed trainers P Nesbitt, H Armstrong, M Neave, Y Vignado, P Ivanoff, D Woolfson, The Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) at the University of NSW (UNSW), the Learning Factor and the Nous Group.
 - a. Staff participated in the Advanced Managers Program, supported by Executive coaching (ABC in-house), Accelerated Learning Laboratory (UNSW) and the Advanced Media Leadership Series (ABC in-house).
 - b. Training was group based for the Advanced Managers Program and the Accelerated Learning Laboratory. The Advanced Media Leadership training was provided through facilitation and group training.
 - c. 22 staff (Executive Level 1 and above) attended the Advanced Managers Program. 14 staff (Executive Level 2 and above) attended the Accelerated Learning Laboratory. 16 staff (Executive Level 2 and above) attended the Advanced Media Leadership course.
 - d. For the Advanced Managers Program (Executive Level 1 and above), each participant attended a total of 24 hours training. For the Accelerated Learning Laboratory (Executive Level 2 and above), each participant attended 24 hours of training. For the Advanced Media Leadership course (Executive Level 2 and above) 7 days of facilitation was provided to all participants, followed by 72 hours of group training.
 - e. See answer to question (1).
 - f. Details of fees charged are commercial in confidence.
- I. The Advanced Managers Program was conducted at the Mercure Hotel Sydney. The Accelerated Learning Laboratory was conducted at UNSW. The Advanced Media Leadership course was conducted at the UNSW Sydney CBD campus, Fox Studios and the Sydney Conference and Training Centre.
- II. See answer to question (c).
- III. See answer to question (d).
- IV. Costs for use of the Mercure Hotel Sydney were \$6,258.74. The cost of using the UNSW venue was \$6126.00. The cost of using the UNSW CBD campus was \$4,104.25. The cost of using Fox Studios was \$3,620. The cost of using the Sydney Conference and Training Centre was \$23,038.

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Question No: 93

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Training

Senator Fisher asked:

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

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

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

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (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)

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

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

Answer:

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

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Question No: 94

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. Any employee, of the 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.
- b. For the financial year to 31 May 2012, 66 employees have received payment under the PPL Scheme. Of these, 5 are classified as Senior Executives, 20 are classified as Administrative/Professional, 39 are classified as Content Makers and 2 are classified as Technologist.

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Question No: 95

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Fisher asked:

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

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

Answer

- a. The ABC owned 63 vehicles as at 8 June 2012.
- b. Refer to table below.
- c. Six vehicles are used by ABC Radio, 54 vehicles are used by ABC Resources (for production needs), two vehicles are used by ABC technology and one vehicle is used by ABC Corporate Strategy.
- d. Refer to table below.
- e. Refer to table below.

Rego	Travelled_1.07.2011-08.06.2012	YTD Cost_1.07.2011-30.05.2012	Location
1AMT345	392	143	WA
1AMT346	487	3,771	WA
1AMT347	3,261	971	WA
1AMT348	2,426	610	WA
1AYN172	4,890	4,172	WA
1CTH025	590	981	WA
1DIV703	4,831	1,407	WA
ABC309	158	1,912	NSW
ABC310	85	1,783	NSW
ABC311	15,558	12,228	NSW
ZYA159	2,028	873	ACT
996905	110	75	NT
TDS996	22,613	8,831	VIC
WHK720	723	2,892	SA
WHK721	1,122	2,897	SA
WHK807	490	1,656	SA

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WHK808	1,605	1,776	SA
XKS395	2,263	2,086	SA
ABC2	421	1,559	NT
ABC202	2,361	594	NSW
NPA344	8,200	4,100	VIC
NPA346	3,304	4,959	VIC
NPA349	182	10,496	VIC
NPA376	152	1,249	VIC
OPT230	2,204	4,484	VIC
POJ112	286	729	VIC
QVW118	980	745	VIC
1AZB106	2,598	1,734	WA
WHK805	2,500	1,340	SA
700FYK	4,803	9,091	QLD
ABC102	45,083	2,065	NSW
ABC322	84,513	2,416	NSW
BST77V	26,731	6,275	NSW
666896	0		NT
552LRK	7,111	1,760	QLD
594FET	11,807	6,830	QLD
652FET	2,156	2,214	QLD
913MSG	1,759	1,080	QLD
ABC315	4,056	5,680	NSW
OB1ABC	8,563	5,479	VIC
996897	660	475	NT
ABC201	4,438	5,631	NSW
ABC001	1,558	1,771	TAS
ABC003	563	1,313	TAS
ABC004	972	47	TAS
ABC009	647	1,051	TAS
1AYN904	5,595	1,351	WA
BP73YP	980		NT
1DUV861	1,956		NT
1DTV605	20		WA
TOTAL	300,791	135,582	

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Question No: 96

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

- a. Gross expenditure on taxis and reimbursements for the use of private vehicles for the 2011-12 financial year is \$2.47 million.

Breakdown by division of expenditure on taxis and reimbursement is as follows:

By Division	
\$A(k)	2011/12
ABC Commercial	90
ABC Resources	123
Business Services/COO/Board/MD	103
Capital Works	71
International	45
Corporate Affairs	33
Corporate Wide Initiatives	21
Editorial Policies	11
Innovation	25
Legal & Business Affairs	10
News	909
People & Learning	35
Radio	487
Technology	76
Communication Networks	14
Television	408
Marketing & Audience Research	7
TOTAL	2,468

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(b) Reasons for taxi use include:

- i. Travel to and from the airport where the employee is travelling on approved ABC business;
- ii. Travel to and from meetings where the employee is representing the ABC;
- iii. Complying with work health and safety requirements;
- iv. Emergency situations or where extenuating circumstances apply and the use of a taxi has been approved by the relevant manager; and
- v. Circumstances specified in the various employment agreements.

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Question No: 97

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Fisher asked:

Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

- 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:

632 staff have an ABC procurement card and 53 staff have corporate American Express cards:

	Procurement	Amex
Staff Band 3	13	0
Staff Band 4	58	0
Staff Band 5	81	1
Staff Band 6	115	1
Staff Band 7	139	14
Staff Band 8	52	8
Staff Band 9	37	17
Total Staff	495	41
SE Band 1	29	0
SE Band 2	61	3
SE Band 3	30	2
SE Band 4 & AWAs	17	7
Total Exec	137	12
	632	53

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

With respect to parts (a) – (e) of this question, there have been no changes since February 2012 Additional Budget Estimates. Please refer to Question on Notice 116 from those hearings.

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Question No: 98

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Printing of Documents

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the department/agency print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

Answer:

The table below addresses the question in relation to professionally printed documents in 2011 and 2012.

Document	Number of copies	Delivered to	Cost
ABC Annual Report	1500	Parliament, libraries, government agencies, universities, ABC offices Australia-wide.	\$28,768
ABC Strategic Plan	3000	Minister, ABC offices Australia-wide	\$8,211
ABC Editorial Policies (including Code of Practice)	5000 (plus 2200 copies of Code of Practice)	ABC staff Australia-wide, Australian Communications and Media Authority	\$110,716
ABC Equity and Diversity Plan Annual Report	350	Parliament, ABC offices Australia-wide, libraries	\$2,800
Australia Network Annual Report	120	ABC offices, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, limited number of external stakeholders	\$11,623.70

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Question No: 99

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Senator Fisher asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) 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:

Yes. Where approved by ABC Management, electronic equipment is provided to ABC staff in order to assist them to fulfil their duties .

Such equipment includes personal computers, mobile phones and a very small number of tablets, digital single lens reflex cameras and video cameras with ancillary equipment and other field recording equipment.

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

When it is required, staff in operational management roles are provided with laptop personal computers and/or smartphones in order to be able to access critical ABC business systems and communications while away from an ABC office.

The acquisition of such equipment is based on business needs and the ABC follows Commonwealth procurement guidelines in sourcing equipment. In line with Commonwealth processes the cost of this equipment is the best available in the market.

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

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

The ABC is unable to advise of the cost of the provision of this equipment as it is not recorded in a single centralised database. Collation of this information would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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Question No: 100

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Senator Fisher asked:

- a. Provide an update of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.
- b. What were the department/agency electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- c. What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- a. Please refer to the following table:

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 2011	1 year
Perth	Synergy	13 July 2011	2 years
Remaining regional sites	Ongoing franchise accounts with local network providers		

- b. Electricity costs 2009-10 and 2010-11 were respectively \$5,150,000 and \$5,650,000.
- c. Electricity costs for financial year to 30 April 2012 are \$4,970,000.

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Question No: 101

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Information for the Australian Greens and Independents

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:
 - a. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
 - b. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.
 - c. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why it could not be undertaken.
 - d. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

2. Does the department/agency provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:
 - a. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
 - b. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.
 - c. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.
 - d. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

Answer:

No information has been sought by or provided to the Australian Greens or Independents outside of the Senate Estimates process.

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Question No: 102

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Shredders

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? 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:

In 2011/12, the ABC purchased 4 shredders. The description and cost of these shredders is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| • Rexel shredder auto+100 cross cut | \$249.00 |
| • Rexel RLS32 Shredmaster shredder | \$1,613.59 |
| • Fellowes shredder PS70 strip cut | \$199.46 |
| • Rexel shredder Auto+60 cross cut | \$210.53 |

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

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Question No: 103

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Regional Content

Senator McKenzie asked:

In 2011, the Senate Environment and Communications committee recommended following a review of ABC content and production that “the ABC publish annual targets of regional content on ABC television against which it reports”.

How does the ABC evaluate its engagement across all media platforms (ie television, radio and internet) in regional areas? Please provide a breakdown of any figures.

Is local content part of that evaluation process? If so, how?

When will there be a response to this recommendation?

Answer:

The development of a response to the Committee’s recommendations is a matter for Government.

Radio – regional engagement

ABC Local Radio’s regional stations provide local news, information, specialist rural coverage and events of relevance to their local audiences. They are accompanied by 54 ABC Local online sites that deliver local content and special feature stories that explore the events, places and people in each region. The ABC Rural portal features significant rural news and content from across Australia.

While some variation exists, the average ABC regional station is staffed by: 3 Local Radio presenters and producers; a Cross Media Reporter; an ABC News journalist; a Rural Reporter; and an ABC Open producer.

The ability to quantify audience engagement for regional radio is limited. ABC Radio participates in all radio audience surveys undertaken by the Nielsen research group in regional markets. However, these surveys are not conducted regularly and are typically limited to individual markets. A lack of demand for regular regional surveys from commercial radio operators means that it would be cost prohibitive for the ABC to commission such surveys. As a result, surveys provide only a limited picture of audience engagement and it is not possible to determine meaningful trends over time.

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News – regional engagement

ABC News provides dedicated regional content from 87 staff in 48 bureaux around the country (see comprehensive list below), in the form of regular news bulletins and more limited inclusion of regional content online.

Overall, News provides more than 3,400 hours of regional news bulletins across Australia each year.

Two typical examples would be a larger regional bureau like Cairns in Queensland, and a smaller one like Geraldton in Western Australia.

Cairns provides five five-minute local radio news bulletins and three one-minute bulletins each weekday, whilst Geraldton provides two five minute bulletins each weekday for about half of the year.

Regional reporters in the larger bureaux also contribute television news content from time to time to both state and national news programming.

There are no formal targets for regional content, but quality control and evaluation is carried out by regular program reviews of regional news bulletins.

Television

ABC television does not set annual targets for regional production. ABC television prioritises engagement with regional audiences by producing content in regional areas and content that is specifically relevant to regional audiences. The ABC also seeks to make all content available across numerous channels and platforms nationwide in order to provide Australian audiences with accessibility to content that is representative of the Australian community and its social and geographic diversity.

In 2011/12 ABC television has committed \$31.8 million to production in the regions, which is an increase of approximately 19% from 2010/11. The total production value obtained from the ABC's investment of \$31.8 million in the regions is \$70.9 million.

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TOTAL REGIONAL CONTENT COMMISSIONED 2011/12		
Managing State	Total ABC Television Contribution	Total Production Budget
ACT	\$1,023,903	\$1,023,903
NT	\$1,697,729	\$3,538,369
QLD	\$8,028,830	\$14,250,193
SA	\$8,287,187	\$21,452,267
TAS	\$1,879,542	\$3,242,076
WA	\$10,892,045	\$27,404,345
Total	\$31,809,236	\$70,911,153

The ABC reviews its performance in regional TV markets through Regional TAM data.

Collected and marketed by Nielsen Television Audience Measurement, Regional TAM data is the official television audience measurement (TAM) of free-to-air and subscription television viewing in the five east coast aggregated regional markets including its 19 component sub-markets.

It covers Queensland, Northern NSW, Southern NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. ABC TV reports its audience performance in the major regional TV markets in its annual report (refer to pages 46-47 and 52 of the ABC Annual Report 2010-11).