

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 116

Program No. ABC

Hansard Ref: Page 42-43 (19/11/2013)

Topic: Q&A in India

Senator Ruston asked:

How much did it cost us to broadcast *Q&A* from India last night?

Mr Scott: I do not have that figure. I can say, though, that we believed it was an important part of our international broadcasting strategy. We are working with DFAT on this. India is clearly a very important market. Part of what we want to do is raise visibility about these important neighbours in an Australian context. That is why we did *Q&A* from Jakarta. That is why we did it from India. That is why we are keen to do one from China. We were delighted last night that it was broadcast not just by the ABC in Australia and on Australia Network and Radio Australia around the region but by Doordarshan, the Indian public broadcaster, live into India, potentially a remarkable market for that program. So it was not an insignificant exercise. I am happy to give you the figure on notice, but it was a good investment in public diplomacy on behalf of Australia.

Senator RUSTON: That will be great. When you provide that information, maybe I could have how many ABC staff were over there—

Mr Scott: Yes.

Senator RUSTON: and perhaps an explanation as to whether you used any on-ground crew from India, because obviously India has pretty good film production—

Mr Scott: Yes, there was a bit of all of that.

Senator RUSTON: and why you did not use that crew. If you could provide the same sort of information about Jakarta, that would be fantastic.

Mr Scott: Yes, certainly.

Answer:

The current estimated expenditure for the *Q&A* India program is \$284,000. For this production, 18 Australian-based staff and 72 India-based staff were required. Of the Indian staff:

- Doordarshan – 39
- Local freelance – 6
- Local fixers – 5
- Venue staffing – 22.

The expenditure for the *Q&A* Jakarta program was \$232,298. For this production, there were 19 Australian-based staff and over 40 Indonesia-based staff. Of the Indonesian staff:

- Metro TV – 32
- ABC Indonesia staff – 4
- Local freelance – 1
- Local fixers – 3