

**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: 120**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 44 (19/11/2013)**

**Topic: 7.30**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

Yes, you can take that on notice. Also, what percentage of 7.30 stories are from each state or territory on average, discounting the local Friday night episodes? How does this compare over the last three years and is it accurate to say that there has been a decline in stories from South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory? Again, I am happy for you to answer those on notice.

**Answer:**

The ABC does not have an ongoing record of the percentage of 7.30 stories generated by each state or territory.

For the purposes of this question, the ABC has examined a three-month period of programs as a sample.

Below are the origins of the stories that appeared on 7.30 (Monday to Thursday) between 2 September – 5 December 2013.

- New South Wales – 52
- ACT – 31
- Victoria – 31
- Queensland – 8
- South Australia – 5
- Western Australia – 5
- Tasmania – 4

The dedicated 7.30 position in the Northern Territory was closed in 2013. However, ABC News has since established a Darwin-based senior reporter. This reporter works primarily for the National Reporting Team but is available to file current affairs stories for 7.30.

Using the same methodology outlined above, in order to make a comparison, below are the location-based origins of the stories that appeared on 7.30 (Monday to Thursday) between 2 September – 5 December 2011:

- New South Wales – 62
- ACT – 31
- Victoria – 38
- Queensland – 15
- South Australia – 7

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- Western Australia – 4
- Tasmania – 0
- Northern Territory – 3

Based on these small samples, 7.30 coverage from South Australia was marginally down in 2013 compared to 2011; coverage from Western Australia was marginally up in 2013 compared to 2011; and coverage from the Northern Territory was down in 2013 compared to 2011 because of the aforementioned closure of the Darwin-based position. The newly-created senior reporter position in Darwin, will ensure 7.30 can cover stories of significance from the Northern Territory as required.