

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: 121

Program No. ABC

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

Topic: Funding - \$2 million for local content

Senator Xenophon asked:

Again, on notice, how much of that has been spent, on what has it been spent and has it been directed by the ABC centrally out of Sydney or is there autonomy with respect to the states? Also, how much has South Australia received of that amount?

Mr Scott: We can give you details.

Answer:

As at 31 October 2013, \$2.9 million had been spent against the \$3.086 million of YTD funding. There is currently a full-year commitment against the \$10 million.

The funding to date has been spent on the 64 new ABC News staff, as well as operational expenditure for the new content initiatives including: the National Reporting Team, ABC Fact Check Unit, video journalists in metro and regional centres, and technological investment in our regional operations.

The Director of News is ultimately responsible for decisions relating to ABC News expenditure and this role is currently Sydney based. Funding for staffing is devolved to the relevant state or territory responsible for employing the new recruits. In the case of South Australia, it has been allocated approximately \$100,000 to fund the new video journalist position based in Renmark and approximately \$90,000 for a live linking operator based in Adelaide.

Additionally, South Australia has received technology and kit to assist in its newsgathering operations. These assets include:

- Laptops with Aurora editing software (Adelaide and Renmark)
- Laptops (Mt Gambier and Port Pirie)
- LiveU linking technology (Adelaide, Port Pirie, Renmark)
- Camera/Video Journalist (VJ) kit (Adelaide, Port Pirie, Renmark)
- iPhones (8 for Adelaide and 1 for Renmark)
- iPads (7 for Adelaide and 1 for Renmark)
- iPhone kits (5 for Adelaide)
- Marantz radio kits (3 for Adelaide)
- Vehicle (1 for VJ Renmark.)