

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2009**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 86**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 38**

**Topic: On-Air Apologies**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

I would like to know how many on-air apologies or corrections the ABC aired from 1 January 2007? In relation to each one of those, can you tell us how long did it take between the complaint being made and the airing or the posting on the website of an apology?

**Answer:**

The ABC has broadcast 16 on-air apologies or corrections in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, about issues that arose from complaints.

The data in the attached table has been extracted from the Audience & Consumer Affairs records and relates to upheld complaints.

It should be noted that corrections or apologies do not necessarily arise from complaints. Some are identified through the normal editorial processes.

Similarly, the majority of upheld complaints do not merit on-air correction. The self-regulatory review currently under way is examining appropriate ranges of remedies for editorial errors.

Where matters are complex or highly contested, delays can occur.

## Q086 - On-air corrections and apologies, 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008

Program	Date of broadcast	Date of correction/ apology	Date of receipt of (earliest) complaint	Subject of correction/ apology	Comments	Online posting	Date of online posting
ABC Local Radio <i>Evenings</i> (NSW)	10 January 2007	10 January 2007	12 January 2007	Coarse language in song lyrics.	The presenter recognised that the song was inappropriate and apologised on air for the language.	Nil	Nil
<i>NSW Votes</i>	24 March 2007	29 March 2007	26 March 2007	Inappropriate comment in election coverage.	During its election night television coverage of the NSW Election, the ABC inadvertently aired an inappropriate comment in relation to the National Party member for Coffs Harbour, Andrew Fraser, in a bottom of frame super. An apology was broadcast on the NSW 7pm Television News.	Nil	Nil
<i>The 7.30 Report</i>	5 June 2007	16 December 2008	15 August 2007	Inaccuracies in segment 'Pulp mill could taint catch: fishing industry'.	On-air statement broadcast following review by the Independent Complaints Review Panel.	Video originally removed from website on 15 October 2007 and Editor's Note added to explain the change. Further explanatory	15 October 2007, updated in July 2008.

						material was added to the Editor's Note in July 2008.	
<i>Late Night Live</i>	28 August 2007	19 September 2007	17 September 2007	Incorrect reference to interview with author.	In the context of discussion of literary hoaxes, the presenter commented that he had interviewed Helen Demidenko on an earlier program. In a subsequent program, the presenter stated that he "got it wrong" and clarified that the encounter that he recalled had not happened on the program. He also acknowledged on-air that Helen Dale "insists we've never met."		
<i>Stateline (NSW)</i>	7 September 2007	14 September 2007	10 September 2007	Incorrect logo.	The logo of the National Parks and Wildlife Service was mistakenly used in a segment about legal action being taken by the National Parks Association over the logging of red gum forests along the Murray River. An on-air correction was broadcast in the next edition of the program.	The correction was posted on line as part of the program's usual transcription service.	14 September 2007 (presumed)
<i>Stateline (NSW)</i>	12 October 2007	19 October 2007	15 October 2007	Incorrect title.	The Historic Houses Trust of NSW was incorrectly referred to as the Heritage Houses Trust. An on-air correction was broadcast in the next edition of	The correction was posted on line as part of the	19 October 2007 (presumed)

					the program.	program's usual transcription service.	
<i>The Einstein Factor</i>	2 November 2007	9 November 2007	5 November 2007	Incorrect answer to quiz question.	The answer to a multiple choice question about the digestive system should have been the pancreas, and not the spleen, which was the answer accepted as correct. A correction was aired in the next edition of the program. The error did not affect the outcome of the quiz.	Nil	N/A
<i>AM</i>	7 November 2007	28 February 2008	7 November 2007	The report 'Palestinians struggle with surge in drug use' included factual errors and lacked balance.	The program broadcast an apology stating that the original story had been found to contain inaccuracies and a lack of balance. Listeners were directed to the amended transcript which could be found on the program's website.	The transcript was amended to correct the factual inaccuracies, the audio of the report was removed from the website and an Editor's Note was appended to the transcript explaining the changes.	22 February 2008, updated 28 February 2008

						The note also acknowledged the failure to achieve balance and apologised for this.	
ABC Classic FM <i>Mornings</i>	31 January 2008	6 February 2008	4 February 2008	Incorrect identification of photograph subject.	The presenter incorrectly stated that a photograph portrayed the execution of a prisoner by a Viet Cong General. In her correction, the presenter stated that the photograph showed the execution of an alleged Viet Cong by Saigon Police Chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan. She also expressed regret for any confusion caused.	Nil	N/A
<i>PM</i>	7 May 2008	8 May 2008	8 May 2008	Incorrect reference to legislation used in litigation.	The program incorrectly stated that Gunns had used the Trade Practices Act in the Gunns 20 case. The correction clarified advised that the Trade Practices Act was not one of the legal avenues Gunns was using in the case.	The online transcript was amended and an Editor's Note added to explain the change.	8 May 2008
<i>The 7.30 Report</i>	9 June 2008	17 July 2008	16 June 2008	Inaccuracies and lack of balance in report.	A statement was broadcast acknowledging that the story titled 'Western Sahara activists	An Editor's Note was added to the	17 July 2008

					target Australia' included inaccuracies and should have included the views of the Moroccan Government.	transcript of the original story acknowledging the editorial lapses and advising that the Moroccan Government disputes many of the Western Saharan claims	
<i>Lateline</i>	4 July 2008	5 September 2008	7 July 2008	Inaccuracies included in report titled 'Corby's dad linked to drug trade'.	The ABC acknowledged that every reasonable effort had not been made to ensure that the factual content of the item was accurate and in context. The video of the segment available on the website was revoiced to remove the inaccuracies. The transcript was corrected and an Editor's Note added to explain the changes.	Correction posted on the ABC News online correction and clarification site.	12 September 2008
<i>7pm TV News (Finance Report)</i>	22 July 2008	25 July 2008	23 July 2008	Use of linear chart to demonstrate growth in All Ordinaries since 1982 and concomitant	The ABC accepted that the best way to show relativities over time is through the use of a logarithmic chart.	Correction posted on the ABC News online correction and clarification	12 September 2009.

				analysis.		site.	
<i>7pm TV News (Finance Report)</i>	18 August 2008	19 August 2008	19 August 2008	Presenter attributed drop in CBA shares to unconfirmed reports that CBA was interested in the assets of Bank West.	The presenter corrected the record the following evening, acknowledging that the fall was due to the shares going ex-dividend.	Nil	N/A
<i>The 7.30 Report</i>	1 September 2008	4 November 2008	3 September 2008	Inaccuracies and lack of balance in story titled 'Carpenter government forced to defend corruption watchdog'.	In addition to the on-air statement, the transcript of the original item posted on the program's website was amended and The video of the story was removed from the website.	An Editor's Note was added to the transcript of the original item to explain that it had been edited and sections removed following an upheld complaint.	Not dated.
<i>AM</i>	19 November 2008	28 November 2008	19 November 2008	Story incorrectly reported that Holden was halting production for three months.	On-air correction broadcast. Transcript of original item amended and editor's note added to explain the changes.	Correction posted on the ABC News online correction and clarification site.	21 November 2008 (editor's note) and 28 November 2008 (posting on corrections page)

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**Question No: 87**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 25**

**Topic: Hopman Cup Coverage**

**Senator Corman asked:**

What representations have you received since you announced a review (of the Hopman Cup) in early January? How many years has the ABC covered the Hopman Cup?

**Answer:**

Since 1 January 2009, 12 people have contacted the ABC expressing concerns about the Hopman Cup broadcasts. This includes a letter from Fred Stolle, and representations by:

- The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, Minister for Tourism, on behalf of Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA, Minister for Tourism (WA)
- Kate Lamont, Chairman, Tourism Western Australia

The ABC has covered the Hopman Cup for 15 years.



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**Question No: 88**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 26**

**Topic: Hopman Cup Coverage**

**Senator Corman asked:**

What sort of return do you get from being the host broadcaster (of the Hopman Cup)? How many countries around the world cover the Hopman Cup using your feed?

**Answer:**

In the most recent five-year agreement with the Hopman Cup, the ABC received no fee.

In the five years prior to that, the ABC received fees for the provision of Host Broadcaster services as follows:

- \$280,000 for Hopman Cup XII (1999/2000);
- \$200,000 for Hopman Cup XIII (2000/2001);
- \$100,000 for Hopman Cup XIV (2001/2002); and
- no fee for the final two events of that contract.

Overseas sales of the project are handled by the International Tennis Federation.

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**Question No: 89**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 29**

**Topic: Boston Consulting Group report**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How much has the Boston Consulting Group been paid for the overall work, dating back to its first engagement that I take to be around August 2007, and then in particular for this refreshed report dated October 2008?

**Answer:**

The ABC made a one-off payment of \$248,600 to BCG for Project W, including the report. All expenditure for Project W occurred in the 2007/08 financial year.

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**Question No: 90**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 30**

**Topic: Boston Consulting Group report**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Was the Boston Consulting Group report provided to the department or any other officials in the context of triennial funding discussions or any other discussions?

**Answer:**

A copy of the report was made available at an informal briefing with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

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**Question No: 91**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 35**

**Topic: Staffing – Peter Lloyd**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Was Mr Peter Lloyd's employment with the ABC terminated on his plea of guilty or was it earlier?

**Answer:**

Mr Lloyd's contract of employment with the ABC ended on 3 December 2008, following his sentencing.

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**Question No: 92**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 35**

**Topic: Staffing – Peter Lloyd**

**Senator Abetz/Birmingham asked:**

In answer to question on notice no. 92 at Supplementary Estimates, the ABC advised it had incurred \$36,243 in external legal costs, \$11,200 for counselling costs and travel and accommodation costs of \$18,427. Are they the final and total costs incurred by the ABC?

Can you confirm that \$70,000 is the capped amount?

**Answer:**

The final and total costs incurred by the ABC are -

External legal costs	- \$36,242
Counselling costs	- \$11,221
Travel and Accommodation	- \$18,427

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**Question No: 93**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 35/36**

**Topic: Programs – *Lords of the Forest***

**Senator Abetz asked:**

With regard to *Lords of the Forest*, when was the errata sheet on the *Four Corners* website posted? Was this after a report by the ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs division or after a report by the Australian Communications and Media Authority?

**Answer:**

*Lords of the Forests* was initially broadcast on ABC Television on 16 February 2004. The errata sheet was posted on the *Four Corners* website on 11 May 2004 after investigations by Audience and Consumer Affairs found three factual inaccuracies in the program.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA) predecessor, the Australian Broadcasting Authority, finalised its first examination of the program on 9 February 2005. ACMA's second examination of the program was finalised on 27 July 2006. While ACMA considered a website correction sufficient and appropriate, the ABC also acknowledged the ACMA finding on air in the following episode of *Four Corners* on 31 July 2006.

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**Question No: 94**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 37**

**Topic: Programs – Q&A**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Could you take on notice whether the ABC's approaches to organisations inviting supporters of the Coalition to appear on 'Q&A' was by telephone or by writing. If it was by writing or email, could we be provided with copies of that correspondence?

**Answer:**

In 2009 Q&A has continued the practice of contacting a wide variety of community organisations to encourage the most diverse possible range of people to participate in the Q&A program by joining the studio audience.

Q&A promotes its audience recruitment process on the Q&A program, as well as online and on radio.

Q&A producers also contact groups they think might assist by circulating information about the program. Some of these groups are those that have a particular interest in politics, public discourse and debates. Others are general community groups.

These approaches may be by phone, email or an initial phone contact with a follow-up email.

Below are some of the groups that Q&A has contacted this year and examples of the typical email letters that have been circulated to the relevant groups.

**Political organisations, political offices and Local Councils:**

- UNSW Liberal Club
- NSW Division of the Liberal Party
- Office of the Hon Joe Hockey, Member for North Sydney
- Office of Peter Debnam MP, State Member for Vaucluse
- Office of Scott Morrison MP, Member for Cook
- Office of Jillian Skinner MP, State Member for North Shore
- Willoughby Council
- Mosman Council
- Sutherland Council
- NSW Young Liberals

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*EXAMPLE OF EMAIL SENT*

*Hi there,*

*I'm a producer on the ABC's Tony Jones-hosted discussion program, Q&A, and we'd like to invite members of the UNSW Liberal Club (and their family and friends) to participate in the show as part of our live studio audience. I was wondering if you might be able to circulate something around your members informing them of this opportunity?*

*Basically, we're sending out a free bus between UNSW and our Ultimo studios and back again **next Thursday March 12**. The precise pick-up location has yet to be confirmed, but the bus will most probably depart from a central location at the uni that has parking and is easy for most people to get to. It will be departing at **8.00pm** so people would need to arrive by **7.45pm**.*

*Everyone will be back at the UNSW location by **approximately 11pm**.*

*The premise of Q&A is that we have a weekly panel of politicians, thinkers and other leaders of Australian society, and the audience asks them questions directly about current news issues. Here's some more about the show:*

*'Q&A is the live program that puts punters, pollies and pundits together in the studio to thrash out the hot issues of the week.*

*Feisty, fresh and always unpredictable, Q&A brings Australia's egalitarian spirit into the studio - with **your** help.*

*Past guests have included Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, author and academic, Germaine Greer, Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull, leader of the Greens, Bob Brown, and the Chaser's Julian Morrow.'*

*Our stellar panel for next week includes:*

- *Member for Bennelong and Former ABC Journalist, **Maxine McKew***
- *Shadow Minister for Housing and Local Government, **Scott Morrison***
- *Psychiatrist and Commentator, **Dr Tanveer Ahmed***
- *Aussie Home Loans' Chief, **John Symond***
- *Actor and Ambassador for Ageing, **Noeline Brown***

*In what promises to be a fun and fiery discussion of current news events.*

*People interested in coming along on the UNSW bus can email me at [mallam.sophie@abc.net.au](mailto:mallam.sophie@abc.net.au), or they can register their interest with 'UNSW' next to their names at this link:*



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<http://www2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx>

*Hurry! Seats are filling up quickly!*

*And why not bring a friend or two? It makes the night so much more enjoyable.*

*We look forward to having UNSW Liberal Club members along to Q&A!*

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### **Chambers of Commerce**

- Junior Chamber of Commerce International
- Rockdale Chamber of Commerce
- Manly Chamber of Commerce
- Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc
- Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce
- European-Australian Business Council
- Australia Singapore Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Warringah Chamber of Commerce
- Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
- Sydney Chamber of Commerce
- Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce
- American-Australian Chamber of Commerce
- Armenian Chamber of Commerce in Australia
- Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia
- Australian British Chamber of Commerce
- Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- French Australian Chamber of Commerce
- Chatswood Chamber of Commerce
- Swedish Australian Chamber of Commerce
- The Australia Brazil Chamber of Commerce
- Hornsby and District Chamber of Commerce
- Mosman Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Australian Chamber of Commerce

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- Parramatta Chamber of Commerce
- Maroubra Chamber of Commerce
- North Sydney Chamber of Commerce
- Narrabeen Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Glebe Chamber of Commerce
- Leichhardt Chamber of Commerce
- Cronulla Chamber of Commerce
- Ryde Chamber of Commerce
- Ryde Business Forum
- Coogee Chamber of Commerce
- Artarmon St Leonards Chamber of Commerce
- Lindfield Chamber of Commerce
- Redfern Waterloo Chamber of Commerce
- Sydney Hills Business Chamber
- Double Bay Chamber of Commerce

*EXAMPLE OF EMAIL SENT*

*I am writing to invite your members along to Q&A this Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Q&A is a 1 hour weekly political discussion show hosted by Tony Jones of Lateline fame ([www.abc.net.au/qanda](http://www.abc.net.au/qanda))*

*We will be joined by:*

- *Treasurer Wayne Swan*
- *Shadow Treasurer (TBA)*
- *Businessman Geoff Cousins*
- *Paul Howse from the Australian Workers Union*
- *Greens Senator Christine Milne*

*Q&A is quite interactive – audience members will have the opportunity to put questions forward to the panel. There will be a particular focus on the economy.*

*Would you be able to spread the word among your members?*

*Taking part is easy – all they need to do is register their details here to attend Q&A at anytime during the year, of for this show:*

<http://www2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx>

*Alternatively, I can be contacted via email, or on 8333 4329.*

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*We need people to arrive at 8.30pm for the live broadcast at 9.30pm, with everything wrapped up by 10.30pm. We are located at 700 Harris St Ultimo. I have attached some more general information about the program.*

*We look forward to having your members along!*

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**Law Firms**

- Blake Dawson
- Mallesons
- Freehills
- Allen Arthur Robinson
- Clayton Utz
- Minter Ellison
- Phillips Fox
- Deacons
- Baker & MacKenzie
- Gilbert & Tobin

*EXAMPLE OF EMAIL SENT*

*Hi there,*

*I'm a producer at the ABC's Tony Jones-hosted political discussion program, Q&A, and we'd like to invite Sydney staff at Blake Dawson (and their family and friends) to participate as part of our live studio audience.*

*Basically, we go to air at 9.30pm **every Thursday evening** from February 12<sup>th</sup>, and interested parties would need to be able to be at the ABC studios in Ultimo from 8.30pm (with everything wrapped up by 10.45pm).*

*The premise of the show is that we have a weekly panel of politicians, thinkers and other leaders of Australian society, and the live audience asks them questions directly about current news issues – so we're looking for engaged, intelligent and articulate people to get involved.*

*Here's some more about Q&A:*

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*'Q&A is the live program that puts punters, pollies and pundits together in the studio to thrash out the hot issues of the week.*

*Feisty, fresh and always unpredictable, Q&A brings Australia's egalitarian spirit into the studio - with **your** help.*

*It's hosted by one of the ABC's most respected journalists - Tony Jones. As host of Lateline, Tony is master of the political interview, but on Q&A he hands the microphone over to **you**.*

*Past guests have included Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, author and academic, Germaine Greer, Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull, leader of the Greens, Bob Brown, and the Chaser's Julian Morrow.'*

*We still have spots remaining in our audience for our February programs – so that's the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – with some stellar line-ups in store for those dates and the year ahead. People interested in attending can simply register at this link:*

<http://www2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx>

*Or email me at [mallam.sophie@abc.net.au](mailto:mallam.sophie@abc.net.au)*

*I've attached a more general flyer about the program itself that you can also forward on to others who might be interested in attending.*

*We look forward to having staff from Blake Dawson along to Q&A in 2009!*

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**Professional Organisations**

- Royal College of Nursing
- Australian College of Nursing
- Australian Sociological Society
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Doctors Reform Society
- National Institute of Forensic Science
- Australian Psychological Society
- Australian Medical Students Association
- Australian Medical Association
- Australian College of Clinical Psychologists

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- Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons Inc.
- Speech Pathology Australia
- Rehabilitation Counselling Association of Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Nutrition Australia
- Dieticians Association of Australia
- Australian Physiotherapy Association
- Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists
- Australian Healthcare Association
- Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation
- Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Australian Association of Gerontology
- Australasian Association Exercise Sports Science
- Australian and NZ Society of Nuclear Medicine
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- National Institute of Accountants
- Association of Taxation and Management Accountants
- Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
- Australia Institute of Company directors
- The Marketing Association of Australia and New Zealand
- Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants
- Australian Marketing Institute
- Australasian Promotional Marketing Association
- Australian Direct Marketing Association
- Institute of Public Administration Australia NSW Division
- Institute of management Consultants
- The Dental Hygienists' Association of Australia
- Australian Dental Association
- Public Relations Institute of Australia
- Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
- Australian Society of Authors
- Australian Screen Editors
- Australian Market & Social Research Society
- Australian Institute of International Affairs
- Planning Institute of Australia
- Royal Australian Institute of Architecture

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- The Institution of Surveyors
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
- Environmental Institute of Australia and NZ
- Design Institute of Australia
- Law Society of NSW
- Law Council of Australia
- International Law Association
- Australian and New Zealand Criminology Society

*EXAMPLE OF EMAIL SENT*

*Hi there,*

*I am a producer for the Q & A program on the ABC.*

*I am writing to invite your members in Sydney to be a part of our audience. Q&A is a program that features 5 panellists - 2 politicians and 3 thinkers/celebrities/writers/business leaders etc. The audience have the opportunity to ask the panel a question. The questions often range from issues of the week to more philosophical questions.*

*Taking part is easy – all they need to do is log onto our website [www.abc.net.au/tv/qanda](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/qanda) and ‘Join the audience’. We would then contact them and invite them to an episode of their choice. The program goes live to air every Thursday night at 9.30pm. We request that the audience arrive at 8.30pm.*

*I was wondering if you’d be able to spread the word about the program through your network? It would be of particular interest to your members who are interested in current affairs and politics.*

*Below is also a blurb that I have been emailing organisations to include in their e-newsletters:*

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*The Q & A program on the ABC is looking for engaged, intelligent and articulate people to get involved in their live to air program that puts punters, polities and pundits together in the studio to thrash out the hot issues of the week.*

*The premise of the show is that we have a weekly panel of politicians, thinkers and other leaders in Australia, and the live audience asks them questions directly about current news issues.*

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*Q&A is hosted by one of the ABC's most respected journalists - Tony Jones. As host of Lateline, Tony is master of the political interview, but on **Q&A** he hands the microphone over to **you**.*

*Past guests have included Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, author and academic, Germaine Greer, Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull, leader of the Greens, Bob Brown, and the Chaser's Julian Morrow.'*

*On Thursday February 12, we will feature a special panel of past Australians of the year including ex cricketer Steve Waugh, General Peter Cosgrove, Burns Specialist Dr Fiona Wood and 2008 Young Australian of the year Jonty Bush.*

*On Thursday February 19 we will be joined by Treasurer Wayne Swan.*

*People interested in attending at anytime during the year can simply register at this link:*

*<http://www2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx>*

*Or email [ayoub.carol@abc.net.au](mailto:ayoub.carol@abc.net.au)*

*We are also able to provide transportation to and from our studios in Ultimo for groups of 20 people or more. So, if you belong to a social group or parent group and would like to take advantage of our FREE bus, please contact Carol Ayoub on 8333 4329, or on the email supplied above.*

*I have also attached a flyer that has more information.*

*Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.*

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**Question No: 95**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 40**

**Topic: NII Funding**

**Senator Wortley asked:**

With regard to NII funding, would you be able to provide a breakdown of the funding allocated to the regions and the capital cities, and where it is allocated – what the programs are and so on?

**Answer:**

ABC NII funding is allocated to:

- deliver new programs and content produced in, or reflective of, regional and rural Australia;
- deliver services that would otherwise not be available to regional Australia; and
- in the case of Television, generate and sustain production outside of the major production centres of Sydney and Melbourne.

ABC NII activities also include other content categories nominated in the ABC's original submission, including business/economy and children/ family/educational content.

The ABC's NII funding for the 2008-09 year of \$23.6 million is allocated as follows:

- \$22.2 million for Regional and Rural Initiatives – with 78 per cent (\$17.2 million) of this content produced outside Sydney and Melbourne.
- TV programming produced outside Sydney/Melbourne includes *Roller Coaster/Can We Help* (Western Australia), *The Collectors* (Tasmania), *The Cook and The Chef/Talking Heads* (South Australia), and weekend *7pm News* (Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory).
- Activities in Sydney and Melbourne (22 per cent) include production of regional radio content for use on national and regional radio networks, Local Online websites including Local Radio Streaming, podcasting and DIG Internet Radio.
- Activity in regional areas comprises regional radio content produced in regional areas throughout Australia, with some minor support costs, and includes the ABC's local radio presence in Ballarat and Gosford, which are operated entirely from NII funds.



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- \$1.1m Business/Economy Initiatives - including *Lateline Business* and Radio business programming including *All in the Wind* and *Perspective*.
- \$0.2m Childrens/Family/Education Initiatives – including *Imaginary Friends* (Sydney) and *Kids Online* (Melbourne).

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**Question No: 96**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 44**

**Topic: Radio National**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Is there any way for us to know whether the funding or resourcing of the Radio National specialist units is going up or down over time? What specialist program units remain in the ABC?

**Answer:**

Since 2005/06, the funding for Radio National specialist programming has increased annually.

In ABC Radio National, programming is currently produced in the following specialist categories: Arts, History, Law, Music, Religion, Rural, Science, Politics and Public/Social Policy.

ABC Radio has some dedicated production units within the networks according to their primary outlet. These are Science and Religion in Radio National and Sport and Rural in Local Radio.

Overall, ABC Radio is structured on a network basis, with a mix of individual and combined program and content production units.

ABC Television has Children's and Content Creation areas. The latter covers Entertainment & Comedy, Documentaries, Drama, Sport & Events, and Factual (including the Indigenous, Religion & Ethics, and Science Units).

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**Question No: 97**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 44**

**Topic: Radio National**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Could I have some comments on the cessation of the Radio National program *In Conversation*?

**Answer:**

*In Conversation* was scheduled at 7.40pm on Thursday nights where it was attracting a relatively small audience of around 10,000 listeners across the country.

Radio National decided that the resources used to produce *In Conversation* (a program of only five minutes) would be of greater impact if diverted to *The Science Show* (12 pm on Saturdays) and *Ockham's Razor* (8.45am on Sundays), particularly as it enabled the development of special projects for the former.

The change also allowed Radio National a suitable repeat time for the highly-resourced *Airplay* program.

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**Question No: 98**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 50/51**

**Topic: HarperCollins**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Regarding the commercial partnership between the ABC and HarperCollins for the publication of books, to what degree are those arrangements being made available to the Parliament? Are you in a position to release the publishing, distribution and financial contract between ABC Commercial and HarperCollins?

How are revenues generated from the venture being shared, and are there any circumstances in which the agreement can be terminated by the ABC?

**Answer:**

HarperCollinsPublishers Australia has purchased the right to operate the ABC Books imprint under licence, with the ABC retaining full editorial control over all titles and content plus full ownership of the ABC trademark and the ABC Books brand. Further details of the arrangement are commercial-in-confidence.

The revenues generated from the agreement will be returned to the Corporation.

There are specific conditions set out in the licensing document whereby the ABC may terminate the agreement.

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**Question No: 99**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 52**

**Topic: HarperCollins**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Can you flesh out what (the contract with HarperCollins) has meant for staffing within ABC Books?

**Answer:**

ABC Books has undergone organisational change as a result of the partnership with HarperCollins. Following a staff consultation period, a number of positions were abolished with a high proportion of affected individuals subsequently hired by HarperCollins. A new position was established and filled from within ABC Books.

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**Question No: 100**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 52**

**Topic: In-house documentary**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

How much in-house documentary material will be produced in 2008-09?

**Answer:**

In 2008-09, 32.5 hours of in-house documentary material will be produced.

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**Question No: 101**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 56**

**Topic: Editorial Guidelines**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Could you provide to the committee details of editorial guidelines and other policies that relate to issues in terms of commentary by broadcasters about management decisions or internal matters and how they are to be handled.

**Answer:**

The ABC's Code of Conduct states that "employees must not make public comment on behalf of the ABC, or use ABC facilities or equipment, unless required as part of their normal work or as specifically approved".

Section 53 of the ABC Employment Agreement deals with misconduct.

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**Question No: 102**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 56**

**Topic: Staffing – Mr Stephen Crittenden**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What costs were incurred in relation to the suspension of ABC Broadcaster Mr Stephen Crittenden?

**Answer:**

The investigation into alleged misconduct by Stephen Crittenden incurred external costs of \$38,960.84.



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**Question No: 103**

**Hansard Ref: ECA 57**

**Topic: ABC coverage – Israeli elections**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Has the ABC received any complaints in relation to your coverage of the recent Israeli elections?

Could you report back to this committee all of your inquiries in regard to this matter and provide us with the details of the seven upheld complaints and the action the ABC is taking in regard to those?

**Answer:**

The ABC has received three formal complaints in relation to its coverage of the Israeli elections.

Since the last Estimates hearings, a further two complaints in relation to the recent conflict in Gaza have been upheld and the total is now nine. Details are as follows:

***ABC Radio National – News, 5 January 2009***

Complaint: Two listeners complained about reference to demonstrators burning “Jewish flags”.

Finding: The ABC acknowledged that the report should have referred to “Israeli flags”.

Action taken: The error was acknowledged on ABC News’s ‘Corrections and Clarifications’ page.

***ABC News Breakfast, 5 January 2009***

Complaint: Two viewers complained about a presenter’s statement that 2006 elections in Gaza had not been properly scrutinised and were regarded as corrupt.

Finding: The ABC agreed that this statement was inaccurate and contrary to findings of the European Union’s Election Observation Mission to the West Bank and Gaza who observed the 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council elections.

Action taken: The error was acknowledged on ABC News’s ‘Corrections and Clarifications’ page on 27 January 2009

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***ABC News Online, 29 December 2008***

Complaint: Two online readers complained that a story on protests in Australia about events in Gaza was inaccurate and misleading.

Finding: The report attempted to combine facts on two separate protests which took place at different times in different locations and the ABC acknowledged that this was potentially misleading. One protest in the Sydney suburb of Lakemba was organised by Hizb Ut Tahrir. The other was a larger and broader protest in the centre of Sydney, made up of many diverse groups in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Action taken: The article was amended and an Editor's Note added on 3 February to explain the change. The error was also acknowledged on ABC News's 'Corrections and Clarifications' page on 4 February 2009.

***PM, 19 January 2008 (2 upheld complaints)***

Complaint: A listener questioned the accuracy of a *PM* story in which it was reported that tens of thousands of buildings in Gaza had been levelled or would have to be bulldozed as a result of conflict in the region. The listener pointed to a BBC report which stated that four thousand homes had been ruined and tens of thousands of people made homeless.

Finding: The ABC acknowledged that the figure should have been attributed to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics from where it was sourced. The complainant was dissatisfied with the response and sought review from the ABC's Complaints Review Executive (CRE). The CRE also found that the reporter's statement was not attributed.

Action taken: Prior to the complaint being referred to the CRE an Editor's Note was added to the online transcript of the report alerting the audience to the source of the figures. The error was also acknowledged on ABC News's 'Corrections and Clarifications' page on 29 January 2009. On the CRE's recommendation, further clarification about the number of buildings destroyed or damaged was added to the Editor's Note.

***7.00 News, 16 January 2009***

Complaint: A viewer complained about a story which reported that Israel had shelled UN headquarters in Gaza because, according to Israel, Hamas was firing at Israeli Defence Forces from there. The viewer questioned why the story did not report a denial by the UN that Hamas had fired on Israelis from UN buildings.

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Finding: Although the story included direct quotes from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon regarding the bombing of the compound, as well as a quote from a UN aid worker, the ABC agreed that the UN denial should have been included in the report to present the full context of the event.

Action taken: The error was acknowledged on ABC News's 'Corrections and Clarifications' page.

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**Question No: 104**

**Written**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How has the ABC implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend (ED)?

Where have savings been achieved – i.e. which programs/resources have been cut?

Has the ABC had to reduce any activities that it considers to be ‘core business’ or has it had to reduce service standards as a result of the ED?

**Answer:**

The ABC is not subject to the two per cent Efficiency Dividend.

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**Question No: 105**

**Written**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend - Staffing**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?

Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.

What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? Are such employment programs being reduced? If so, by how many and has the ABC done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?

**Answer:**

Not applicable – see Question 104.

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**Question No: 106**

**Written**

**Topic: Consultancy Expenditure**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Has the ABC's consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?

**Answer:**

No.

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**Question No: 107**

**Written**

**Topic: Appropriations**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Noting the Government's *Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009*, which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States:

- Does the ABC receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Dept?
- What are these?

**Answer:**

The ABC does not receive such appropriations.

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**Question No: 108**

**Written**

**Topic: Data Collection/Analysis**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Does the ABC have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – is the ABC provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?

**Answer:**

Yes, the ABC maintains adequate analytical resources as part of its staffing.



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**Question No: 109**

**Written**

**Topic: Depreciation**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Did the ABC use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?

Has the ABC used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?

Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?

How much has the ABC spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?

**Answer:**

No.

No.

No.

The ABC has spent \$29,844,570 in the six months to 31 December 2008.

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**Question No: 110**

**Written**

**Topic: Stimulus Package**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Does the ABC have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package?

If so, was (and when was) the ABC asked for input before the stimulus package was announced?

When did the ABC know details about the stimulus package affecting its portfolio?

**Answer:**

The ABC does not have any involvement in the measures announced as part of the Budget Stimulus Package.

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**Question No: 111**

**Written**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What is the current total staffing for the ABC – permanent and temporary?

What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the ABC on 1 July 2008?

How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year (CY) 2008 and in financial year (FY) 2008-09 to date? What level are these staff?

How many temporary positions exist or have been created in CY 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date?

For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

**Answer:**

As at 15 March 2009, the total full time equivalent (FTE) staffing of the ABC is 4495.02. There are 3657.5 (FTE) permanent staff and 837.52 (FTE) temporary staff. The latter includes casual, fixed-term and specified task employees.

The ABC'S Total FTE staffing on 1 July 2008 was 4495.95.

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A total of 158 permanent staff were recruited in the calendar year 2008 at the levels shown below:

<b>CY 2008 (1/01/2008 - 31/12/2008)</b>			
	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative/Professional Band 2	2		2
Administrative/Professional Band 3	3	1	4
Administrative/Professional Band 4	12		12
Administrative/Professional Band 5	6		6
Administrative/Professional Band 6	7		7
Administrative/Professional Band 7	8		8
Administrative/Professional Band 8	6		6
Administrative/Professional Band 9	2		2
Program Maker Band 2	13		13
Program Maker Band 3	6	2	8
Program Maker Band 4	10		10
Program Maker Band 5	8		8
Program Maker Band 6	15		15
Program Maker Band 7	8		8
Program Maker Band 8	4		4
Program Maker Band 9	3		3
Senior Executive Band 1	3		3
Senior Executive Band 2	4		4
Senior Executive Band 3	2		2
Shop Assistant		3	3
Shop Manager Grade C	2		2
Technologist Band 2	1		1
Technologist Band 3	4		4
Technologist Band 4	4		4
Technologist Band 5	3		3
Technologist Band 6	3		3
Technologist Band 7	5		5
Technologist Band 8	5		5
Technologist Band 9	1		1
Executive Director	2		2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>158</b>

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A total of 96 permanent staff were recruited in the 2008-09 financial year (to 15/3/2009) at the levels shown below:

<b>FY 2008/2009 (YTD: 1/7/2008 TO 15/3/2009)</b>			
	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative/Professional Band 3	1		1
Administrative/Professional Band 4	6	1	7
Administrative/Professional Band 5	6		6
Administrative/Professional Band 6	2		2
Administrative/Professional Band 7	4		4
Administrative/Professional Band 8	2		2
Administrative/Professional Band 9	1	1	2
Program Maker Band 2	10		10
Program Maker Band 3	12	1	13
Program Maker Band 4	10		10
Program Maker Band 5	4		4
Program Maker Band 6	7		7
Program Maker Band 7	2		2
Program Maker Band 8	3		3
Program Maker Band 9	2		2
Senior Executive Band 1	1		1
Senior Executive Band 2	2		2
Senior Executive Band 3	2		2
Shop Assistant		2	2
Shop Manager Grade C	1		1
Technologist Band 2	1		1
Technologist Band 3	1		1
Technologist Band 4	3		3
Technologist Band 5	3		3
Technologist Band 6	1		1
Technologist Band 7	2		2
Technologist Band 9	1		1
Executive Director	1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>96</b>

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As at 25 March 2009, 357 temporary positions exist.

62 temporary positions were created in the 2008 calendar year.

At 25 March 2009, 52 temporary positions have been created in the 2008-09 financial year.

For the calendar year 2008, 839 employees have been employed on contract with an average period of employment of 7.2 months.

For the financial year 2008-09 (to 15 March 2009), 716 employees have been employed on contract with an average period of employment of 6.24 months.

Employees on contract (fixed term and specified task):

<b>A. CY 2008 (1/01/2008 - 31/12/2008)</b>	
No. of employees on contract	839
Average Employment Period	0.6 yrs or 7.2 months
<b>B. YTD: FY 2008-2009 (1/07/2008 - 15/13/2009)</b>	
No. of employees on contract	716
Average Employment Period	0.52 yrs or 6.24 months

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**Question No: 112**

**Written**

**Topic: Program Underspends/Lapsing**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year?

How many of the ABC's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year and what are they?

**Answer:**

The ABC is funded using operation wide appropriations from the Australian Government. The ABC apportions its appropriation against outputs and reports expenditure against these outputs, rather than specific programs.

The ABC's current funding triennium ends in 2008-09.

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**Question No: 113**

**Written**

**Topic: Gershon Review**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What impact will the Gershon Review have on the ABC?

How much money will be saved?

Will the ABC be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?

**Answer:**

The ABC is not impacted by the Gershon Review.



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**Question No: 114**

**Written**

**Topic: Media Monitoring**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008?

How much has been spent on media monitoring in FY 2008-09 to date?

How many staff in the ABC are employed for media related duties?

**Answer:**

Calendar Year 2008: \$129,896

Financial Year 2008-09 to date: \$85,955

Three staff are employed for media related duties (not including staff engaged in marketing and publicity for ABC products and services).

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**Question No: 115**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Advertising**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What communications programs has the ABC undertaken, or is planned to undertake?

For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs).

What was the total spend on advertising by the ABC in CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?

**Answer:**

As stated in the answer to Question 103 from October Estimates, the ABC does not generally conduct communications programs, except to promote its content and products to ABC audiences. The ABC also broadcasts community service announcements.

In 2008, the ABC ran promotions to encourage its audience to contribute to the Government's review into public broadcasting and a general information campaign on how to receive digital TV. Such promotions are produced in-house at a negligible cost. The Corporation also broadcast promotions about the Freeview digital offer. The Freeview announcement was supplied to the ABC by Freeview Australia Limited.

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**Question No: 116**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Hospitality**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What is the ABC's hospitality spend for CY 2008 and for FY 2008-09 to date? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

**Answer:**

Entertainment, including entertainment related expenditures, such as Fringe Benefits Tax on such expenditure amounted to:

- \$543,744 in Calendar Year 2008; and
- \$348,059 in Financial Year 2008/09 to the end of February.

It is not feasible to provide the date, location, purpose and cost of all events within the time requested as this will require examination of supporting documentation related to more than 15,000 transactions over the periods in question, and would require the ABC to retrieve records from our procurement card providers.

The ABC's hospitality expenditure relates primarily to significant ABC events, such as the Boyer Lectures, the ABC Showcase at Parliament House, 1000 Episodes of Landline, the Heywire Presentation, the Digital Media Awards, and the ABC's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations; as well as to program launches, industry functions and exhibitions, such as "Through Australian Eyes".

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**Question No: 117**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Topic: Board Appointments**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What is the gender ratio on the ABC board?

In which states/territories do these Board members reside?

**Answer:**

Two new ABC Board members were appointed on 27 March 2009. Of the eight Board members as at 27 March, two are female. Two Board members reside in Victoria, one in South Australia and the remainder in New South Wales.

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**Question No: 118**

**Written**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Has the ABC received any advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests?

How many FOI requests has the ABC received?

How many have been granted or denied?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answer:**

The ABC has not received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests.

Since October 2008, the ABC has received six FOI requests.

One has been denied, one has been granted in part, two have been granted and two are still in the process of being completed.

There have been no conclusive certificates issued.

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**Question No: 119**

**Written**

**Topic: Consultancies**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?

Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the consultancy, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.

How many consultancies are planned or budgeted for this calendar year?

Have these been published in the ABC's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website? 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:**

There were 59 consultancies (defined the same way as in ABC Annual Reports) in operation between 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. See the attachment for details.

Consultancies by their nature are not individually planned; however, the ABC originally identified a budget of \$1.2m for the 2008/09 Financial Year.

The ABC only includes on the Procurement Plan section of the AusTender website, the procurements that are expected to be undertaken during the year that may exceed \$400,000 in value.

Although some consultancies do eventuate during a calendar year that exceed this sum, they are often not easily anticipated at the commencement of the year. The majority of the ABC's consultancies relate to short term assignments, particularly around recruitment. These are typically for small values, and it is not cost-effective to undertake these using AusTender or to disclose in the annual procurement plan.

# Consultants

2007-08 (1 January to 31 December 2008)

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Total \$	Duration	Engagement Information
<b>Below \$10,000</b>				
Various – below \$10,000		128,185		
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>128,185</b>		
The Boston Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Structural Reviews of ABC Operations	708,400	Long	Restricted RFP via Austender
Knight Frank Australia Pty Ltd	Marketing of the ABC Perth site for sale.	208,630	Short	RFQ across all major real estate agencies within Perth.
McGees Property (NSW) Pty Ltd	Property Valuations for Financial Statements	200,987	Short	RFQ to all major valuation services providers.
Trident Media Partners	Strategic Capital Planning Advice	176,923	Long	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Oakton AA Services Pty Ltd	Internal Audit services	174,945	Ongoing	Full Tender via Austender
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Probity and Internal Audit services	157,112	Ongoing	Full Tender via Austender
Gibson Quai-AAS Pty Ltd	Technical, probity and tender evaluation services	118,731	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Denis Muller & Associates	Editorial Policies quality assurance.	114,670	Ongoing	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
The Cancer Council New South Wales	Scientific assessments at Toowong.	86,498	Long	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Invisible Hand Consulting Pty. Ltd	HR management and recruitment services	81,530	Long	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
KPMG	Multiple assignments re taxation and quality assurance.	80,150	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Norman Disney Young	Engineering Services re Toowong Divestment	72,400	Short	RFQ to major engineering services providers.
Kordia Pty Ltd	Electromagnetic testing in Cambodia (DFAT Project)	63,469	Short	Restricted RFP to major international suppliers.
Fulcrum Risk Services Pty Limited	Development and testing of Business Continuity.	62,736	Ongoing	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
e-Secure Pty Ltd	Specific IT network security testing and advice.	61,875	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Altiris Australia Pty Ltd	Proof of concept on desktop management services.	60,000	Short	Full Tender via Austender
Profero Pty Limited	Website development services (AusAid)	48,480	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Crown & Marks Executive Search Pty Limited	Recruitment Fees -- Director Business Services	47,250	Short	Direct engagement.
Hays Specialist Recruitment (Australia) Pty Ltd	Recruitment Fees -- Four separate positions.	47,183	Short	Direct engagement in each of the four cases.
Coffey Environments Pty Ltd	Environmental Assessments for Perth/Toowong.	46,866	Short	RFQ to all major environmental services providers.
Pinpoint HRM	Development of HR Recruitment systems.	43,476	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Rosemary Broomham	Heritage Assessment requirements	39,000	Long	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
CB Richard Ellis Pty Ltd	Property Valuation and Assessment for London	38,000	Short	Direct engagement due to availability and specialist knowledge.
Business Management Services	Technical and financial management services (Aus Aid)	37,550	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Andrew Watson	Review financial systems (AusAid)	35,000	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Combined Management Consultants Pty Ltd	Project Management of SAP Finance upgrade.	27,488	Short	Direct engagement following RFQ process.
LaVolta Consulting Pty Ltd	Recruitment Fees -- Two separate positions.	27,383	Short	Direct engagement.
ECA International Pty Ltd	Strategic Review of Locally Engaged Staff	27,300	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Perceptor Recruitment	Recruitment -- Manager Financial Accounting	26,607	Short	Direct engagement.
Hewlett Packard Australia Pty Ltd	Specialist IT Hardware and Software services	26,420	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Malcolm Ross Sim	Breast cancer study at Toowong.	26,400	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Jensen Bowers Unit Trust	Surveying Services re Toowong Divestment	25,305	Short	Direct engagement following RFQ process.
Network Systems Integration Pty Ltd	Information technology systems	25,000	Long	Direct engagement due to availability and specialist knowledge.
Susan Hayes	Restructure and Review of PNG Broadcasting (AusAid)	22,727	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Documentum International, Inc.	Information technology systems re WCMS Project	22,700	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
OPPEUS Pty Ltd	Recruitment -- Director of Communications	21,050	Short	Direct engagement.
J. Cornish & Associates Pty. Ltd.	Helicopter engineering and maintenance services.	19,456	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Performance Partners Consulting	ABC Commercial organisational restructure analysis	17,587	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.

Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Pty Limited	Property services regarding Heritage Assessments	16,670	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Professional Financial Consulting Pty Ltd	Actuarial services - Long Service Leave Calculations	16,500	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Clarius Group Limited	Recruitment -- Two positions in Libraries and Archives.	16,118	Short	Direct engagement.
Bennelong Resources Pty Limited	Benchmarking of senior management accountabilities.	15,750	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Cancer Council Queensland	Breast cancer study at Toowong.	15,150	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
The Peripheral People Pty Ltd	Review of ABC firewall infrastructure	14,900	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Austin Strategic Research Pty Ltd	Web Survey Research concerning Portal development.	14,613	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Arup Pty Ltd	Advice on the Ultimo Centre barrel roof repairs.	14,550	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Rider Levett Bucknall NSW Pty Ltd	Property services regarding Toowong Relocation	14,500	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Aurec Pty Ltd	Recruitment -- Windows Server Analyst	14,446	Short	Direct engagement.
Broadcast Solutions Electronics (Pty) Ltd	Design of FM Transmission Services in PNG (AusAid)	14,048	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Accounting advice on an investment proposal	13,600	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Transpire Pty. Ltd.	Review of web content delivery system.	12,031	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Mark Lucas	Programming advice regarding ABC2 Breakfast News	12,000	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
AustCorp Consulting Pty Limited	Recruitment -- Two positions in Innovations	11,500	Short	Direct engagement.
Queensland Health Clinical and Statewide Services	Soil Sampling Services -- Toowong Breast Cancer	10,743	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Michael Page International (Australia) Pty Limited	Recruitment -- Assistant Accountant (Commercial)	10,661	Short	Direct engagement.
Energyfocus SEM Pty Ltd	Contract negotiation advice	10,587	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.
Hender Consulting	Recruitment -- Financial Accountant (Shared Services)	10,575	Short	Direct engagement.
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	Recruitment -- Unit Coordinator (Radio Sport)	10,440	Short	Conversion Fee (from Temporary to Permanent)
Brewster Murray Pty Limited	Interior design services - Ultimo and Wollongong	10,400	Short	Direct engagement due to specialist knowledge.

**Sub total**

**3,407,064**

**Total**

**3,535,249**



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**Question No: 120**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Wage negotiations**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

With reference to the 9 February 2009 article in *The Australian* "Pay spat may hurt funding for ABC":

- a) How did the CPSU come to believe a 4% pay offer was being made by ABC management?
- b) What ABC executives have been involved in wage negotiations with the CPSU and what stages were these executives involved?
- c) When did ABC management become aware the CPSU was discussing at membership meetings a 4% pay offer allegedly made by ABC management?
- d) When did ABC management become aware the CPSU was a national ballot regarding a 4% pay offer allegedly made by ABC management?
- e) When did this national ballot take place?
- f) What was the question (or questions) asked?
- g) What letters, correspondence or agreements had been exchanged between ABC management and the CPSU prior to the conduct of this ballot in relation to these wage negotiations? What letters, correspondence or agreements have been exchanged since? What was the content of any such exchanges and when were they made?
- h) At what meetings has the ABC board discussed these wage negotiations? Was the board aware of any letters, correspondence or agreements exchanged between ABC management and the CPSU? If so, what communications were they aware of and when were they made aware?
- i) Has the board provided any directions or instructions to Mr Scott or ABC management about the conduct or terms of these wage negotiations? If so, what directions or instructions have been provided and when were they provided?

**Answer:**

- a) In August 2008, the ABC put an offer to extend the current Employment Agreement from its notional expiry date of 1 April 2009 to end June 2010 and a pay increase of 4% from July 2009. The increase was not to exceed 4% over the period July 2009 to July 2010. The ABC

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cannot be certain how the CPSU came to the view that the offer was for 4% from 1 April 2009. Any increase earlier than July would need to be less than 4% to maintain the level of the overall increase.

- b) The Executives involved in the wage negotiations were:
- Mark Scott, Managing Director
  - David Pendleton, Chief Operating Officer
  - Kate Dundas, (then) Director People & Learning Division
  - Don Smith, Head, Industrial Relations

These Executives have been involved in the negotiations since 28 August 2008.

- c) The ABC became aware of what the CPSU was putting to its members on or about Friday 10 October 2008.
- d) The ABC became aware that the CPSU was putting this proposition to its members by way of a ballot at the same time.
- e) The union ballot took place during the week commencing Monday 13 October 2008.
- f) The ABC understands that members were asked to vote to accept or reject an extension of the Agreement from 1 April 2009 for 12 months, and a pay increase of 4% from 1 April 2009.
- g) There was no correspondence between the ABC and CPSU prior to the union ballot.
- The CPSU advised the ABC of the outcome of the ballot on 18 November 2008.
  - A meeting was held between the ABC and the unions on 17 December 2008.
  - On 18 December 2008, the ABC wrote to the CPSU clarifying the outcome of that meeting and providing a revised offer of a non-recurrent increase of 1% from 1 April 2009, an ongoing increase of 4% on the pre April pay rates from 6 July 2009 and extension of the current Agreement from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2010.
  - The CPSU acknowledged this offer on 22 December 2008 and asked for the ABC to reconsider a 4% increase from 1 April 2009 and a 12 months extension of the Agreement from 1 April 2009.
  - The ABC responded on 23 December 2008, reiterating the offer in its letter of 18 December 2008.

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- On 20 January 2009, the CPSU wrote to the ABC again requesting a reconsideration of the ABC wage offer. The CPSU set out its version of how the wage offer had been discussed, claiming that there had been no misunderstanding of the offer, and set out its version of the timing of putting it to members.
  - Following further discussions, the ABC issued a staff circular on 4 February 2009, clarifying for staff and the unions what had occurred in the course of the wage discussions and setting out clearly what the offer now entailed.
  - The CPSU conducted further members meetings in the week commencing 9 February, and held a national on line ballot from 12 February to 23 February 2009 to vote on accepting or rejecting the ABC's offer.
  - On 24 February, the CPSU wrote to the ABC to advise that members had voted to accept the ABC's wage offer.
  - On 26 February, the ABC wrote to the CPSU acknowledging the advice and set up meetings to finalise the necessary steps to have the variation and extension of the ABC Employment Agreement approved under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.
  - On 10 March 2009, the ABC wrote to the CPSU with final drafts of the variations to the Agreement, and details of the processes for approval required under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.
- h) Proceedings of ABC Board meetings are confidential.
- i) Proceedings of ABC Board meetings are confidential.

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**Question No: 121**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Studio Automation**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Please detail the processes underway for the automation of television studios:

- What studios are being automated and when?
- How were they prioritised?
- What is the cost of automation?
- What savings or benefit is automation expected to derive?

What impact will automation have on staffing levels?

**Answer:**

Those studios used primarily for News and Current Affairs programs in each capital city are being automated. Sydney and Melbourne will both have two studios automated while all other capital cities will have just one, making a total of ten installations.

Melbourne Studio 38	December 2008
Brisbane	TBC due to power issues
Sydney Studio 23	March 2009
Melbourne Studio 39	May 2009
Adelaide	June 2009
Perth	June 2009
Hobart	August 2009
Darwin	August 2009
ACT (Dickson)	October 2009
Sydney Studio 24	December 2009

Studios are automated according to operational need and local capability. Melbourne and Sydney already had experience with automated studios with work that was pioneered in Melbourne using in-house developed technology. ABC Victoria was also the chosen State for the production of the new ABC2 breakfast news program, based on their capability with automated studios. Sydney and Brisbane were next; the former due to volume of work and existing experience, and the latter due to need in the temporary location at Mt. Coot-tha, although power issues have delayed that installation. The five remaining state and territory installations were scheduled around workload and available facilities for remote news program production.

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The total budgeted project cost is \$21.8 million. This is made up of \$13.75 million to design, decommission existing facilities, purchase and install new equipment and train staff. A further \$8.05 million allowance has been made to meet staff redundancy costs.

Studio infrastructure represents millions of dollars of capital investment which needs replacing every 5-8 years. By implementing automated studio equipment the base replacement cost of that infrastructure is significantly reduced now and for subsequent re-fits. Recurrent infrastructure savings are expected to be in the order of \$4 million to \$5 million annually, while staff savings will be \$5 million annually.

Using an automated facility for highly formatted shows allows skilled staff to be applied to more complex work while reducing the overall number of staff required for the same output. Increased output in a highly formatted style can be achieved with little or no increase in existing overheads. The overall benefit for the Corporation allows significantly more programming to be delivered at a reduced cost on facilities that are less expensive to run, maintain and replace.

The automation of studios will reduce the number of studio based staff positions by a nett full time equivalent of 54 nationally.

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**Question No: 122**

**Hansard Ref: Written**

**Topic: Digital Transmission**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

What costs is the ABC facing in relation to the transition to digital transmission in both television and radio? When are these costs being incurred and how are they being met?

**Answer:**

The ABC has been progressively rolling out digital television transmission and distribution since 2001 under a contract with Broadcast Australia. These costs are set out in ABC Appropriations (Outcome 3) and are as follows:

YEAR	(\$'000)
00/01	29 430
01/02	29 426
02/03	29 763
03/04	57 888
04/05	64 790
05/06	69 114
06/07	74 581
07/08	80 060

Digital radio transmission and distribution expenditure will commence in 2009/10 under contracts currently being finalised. The costs are also expected to be covered through annual Appropriations.

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**Question No: 123**

**Written**

**Topic: Digital Transmission**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How did ABC1's ratings over the 2008-09 summer period compare with those of 2007-08? What reasons does the ABC have for any changes? What reviews or changes have been put in place to assess content for summer 2009-10?

**Answer:**

ABC1's total TV prime time share was 12.4 per cent, down 1.7 percentage points compared to the previous summer.

There was a larger proportion of repeated content than during the previous summer.

An analysis of the change will inform the scheduling of programs for the summer of 2009-2010.