

**Senate Standing Committee on the  
Environment, Communications and the Arts**  
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**  
Supplementary Estimates Hearings October 2008

**Question: 17**

**Topic: ISP Filtering**  
**Senator Ludlam asked:**

***ISP Filtering***

Senator LUDLAM—Can you take us back to the appropriation for the filtering, which was \$40 something—

Mr Rizvi—The allocation was \$44.2 million over four years.

Ms Scott—Senator, would it assist you if we give you at the end some of that detail?

Senator LUDLAM—Yes, I would appreciate that.

**Answer:**

A document entitled Cyber-safety- overview was tabled on the day of the hearing.  
Please see next page.

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Tabled: Supplementary  
Budget Estimates  
20 October 2008  
DBCDE

**CYBER-SAFETY**

*Overview*

- The Government committed funding of \$125.8 million over four years in the 2008-09 Budget for a package of cyber-safety measures that include education, international co-operation, research, law enforcement and internet service provider (ISP) filtering.
- The *Cyber-safety Plan* comprises:
  - Australian Federal Police's (AFP's) Child Protection Operations Team - \$49.0 million over four years for detection and investigation of online child sex exploitation;
  - Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions - \$11.3 million over four years to help deal with the increased activity resulting from the work of the AFP to ensure that prosecutions are handled quickly;
  - filtering - \$44.2 million over four years for:
    - ISP level filtering - to develop and implement ISP filtering; this includes \$1 million in 2008-09 to undertake the live 'real world' pilot; and
    - free PC filters - for the National Filter Scheme to provide free filters until 31 December 2008, and free ongoing technical support until 30 June 2010;
  - education and outreach activities - \$9.9 million over four years to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to implement a comprehensive range of education and outreach activities;
  - Websites / Online helpline - \$4.3 million over four years to ACMA to improve the current NetAlert website and to make it easier for parents to use, and to provide up to date information. ACMA will also develop a children's cyber-safety website to provide information specifically for children, and improve the online helpline to provide a quick and easy way for children to report online incidents that cause them concern;
  - a Consultative Working Group - \$0.8 million over four years for a Consultative Working Group to consider the broad range of cyber-safety issues and provide advice to Government to ensure properly developed and targeted policy initiatives;
  - a Youth Advisory Group - \$3.9 million over four years for a Youth Advisory Group and online forum to provide advice on cyber-safety issues from a young person's perspective; and
  - research - \$2.3 million over four years for research into the changing digital environment to identify issues and target future policy and funding.

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**Question: 18**

**Topic:** *ABC-SBS Board Appointments – Consultancy*

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

When were Ford Kelly appointed?

**Answer:**

Monday, 13 October 2008.

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**Question: 19**

**Topic:** *ABC-SBS Board Appointments – Consultancy*

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

When was the invitation to tender made?

**Answer:**

Thursday, 2 October 2008.

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**Question: 46**

**Topic: *ABC-SBS Board Appointments – Nomination Panel***

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

How much are the appointees to the ABC and SBS boards Nomination Panel paid? On what basis are they paid? How many hours deliberation for each vacancy are they expected to undertake?

**Answer:**

The Chair of the Nomination Panel is paid a daily fee of \$597.00. The other Members of the Panel are paid a daily fee of \$531.00.

The Department consulted with the Remuneration Tribunal in relation to appropriate remuneration for Members of the Nomination Panel for appointments to Boards of the ABC and SBS.

The Remuneration Tribunal, in consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, advised that clause 2.3 of *Determination 2008/07: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part Time Public Office* (the Determination) could be used as a guide for Members of the Nomination Panel.

The daily fee will apply to preparation for meetings on a pro-rata basis in accordance with clauses 2.4 to 2.8 of the Determination.

The time taken for this process will depend on the number and nature of the applications including the number the Panel chooses to interview.

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**Question: 47**

**Topic:** *ABC-SBS Board Appointments – Current Vacancies*

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

When are the current vacancies on the ABC and SBS boards expected to be filled?

**Answer:**

Recommendations are likely to be made to the Governor-General in the first quarter of 2009.

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**Question: 48**

**Topic:** *ABC-SBS Board Appointments – Nomination System*

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Is the Minister or any other Minister able to nominate candidates for consideration by the Nomination Panel? If so, will the Panel be aware that such candidates have been nominated by the Minister or any other Minister?

**Answer:**

No.

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**Question: 49**

**Topic: Temporary captioning exemptions**

**Senator Siewert asked:**

Does the department intend to approve the temporary exemption application sought by free to air broadcasters under section 55 of the Disability Discrimination Act?

**Answer:** Temporary exemption applications are a matter to the Australian Human Rights Commission.