

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	140
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia – voluntary staff movements		
Hansard Page ECITA:	131 (20 Oct)		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Have any staff left voluntarily? Since the merger?

Ms Maddock—I think it is 18. Some of those were people who had been on fixed terms; others were ongoing staff.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—That is 18 out of a total of how many from the combined agency?

Ms Maddock—Full-time equivalent. We have currently got 172½.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Perhaps you could take on notice and provide us with details from which of the original agencies those 18 persons came and a breakdown of their levels or organisational positions in some way.

Answer:

Of the 18 staff who have left Screen Australia since 1 July 2008, two were from Film Australia, six from the Film Finance Corporation and ten from the Australian Film Commission.

	FFC	FAL	AFC	TOTAL
Corporate Services	1	2	4	7
Governance	1		1	2
Production Support & Development	2		1	3
Marketing Support	1		1	2
Legal	1		2	3
Research			1	1
TOTAL	6	2	10	18

as at 20 October 2008

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	141
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia – Annual Report		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

If the Screen Australia annual report has not yet been tabled, when will it be tabled and was any consideration given to having the annual report ready in advance of Supplementary Estimates as a courtesy?

Answer:

A Screen Australia Annual Report for 2007-08 was not required as Screen Australia commenced operation on 1 July 2008.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	142
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia - Staff		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many permanent staff recruited since the budget estimates?
2. What level are these staff?
3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since budget estimates?
4. Since budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
5. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
6. If so, where and at what level?

Answers:

1. Two
2. APS 3, EL1
3. Five
4. 16 employees, average length of employment period 4.8 months
5. No
6. Not applicable

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	143
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia - Razor Gang		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What discussions has the Screen Australia had with the Razor Gang Mk II?
2. Has the Razor Gang indicated any cuts/savings to be made by the Screen Australia?

Answers:

1. Screen Australia has had no discussions with the Expenditure Review Taskforce.
2. No

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Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	144
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia – Special accounts		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What special accounts does the Screen Australia currently hold? How much is in these accounts?
2. Does the Screen Australia use the interest from these funds to fund ongoing operations?
3. Has the Razor Gang Mark II given any indication about the future of these special accounts?

Answers:

1. None
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable

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Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	145
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia - Underspending		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many programs were underspent in 07-08 financial year?
2. What requests have been made to roll-over underspends to 2008-09?
3. Were these requests successful?

Answers:

1. None. Screen Australia commenced operation on 1 July 2008.
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	146
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia – Media monitoring and communications		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much has been spent on media monitoring to date this year?
2. What communications programs has the Screen Australia undertaken, or are planning to undertake?
3. For each program, what is the total spend?
4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Answers:

1. \$30,565.90 (Please note media subscriptions are also used to track screen production for research purposes.)
2. A program of industry consultation was conducted in September and October 2008 as part of developing the agency's new funding guidelines. This comprised drafts for comment placed on the Screen Australia website, as well as two rounds of seminars in capital cities, publicized through trade media releases, industry guilds, email newsletters and the Screen Australia website. No paid advertising was taken as part of this program. No other communications programs are planned for this financial year.
3. Industry consultation for new program guidelines - \$26,000 (flights, accommodation, venue hire).
4. See response to Part 2. Other than industry consultation seminars, no events have been planned at this time.

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Outcome:	4	Question No:	147
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia - FOI		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the Screen Australia received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Screen Australia received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answers:

1. No
2. One
3. One granted, none denied
4. None

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Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2008

Outcome:	4	Question No:	148
Output:	4.1		
Division/Agency:	Screen Australia		
Topic:	Screen Australia - Reviews		
Hansard Page ECITA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many reviews are currently being undertaken in Screen Australia?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. Which reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Answers:

1. None
2. Not applicable
3. None
4. Not applicable