

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2005-06 Hearings

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Questions on Notice

MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2006

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
1	4	Conroy	<i>Workers compensation costs</i> How large are they and how much time is lost through workplace injury?	Australia Post	11/04/06
2	7	Moore	<i>Staffing and Northgate</i> Could I get information about current staffing at Northgate and the proposals for what you could be considering for change? You mentioned that you are looking at technology changes and also a change of focus. We would like to get some information particularly about your proposals for possible staff impact.	Australia Post	18/04/06
3	8	Moore	<i>Staffing and equipment changes</i> The one you mentioned with the equipment changes-does that have any staffing impact on the Sunshine Coast-up around Bundaberg and the central coast areas? Can I get the same kind of staff information on those various locations as well?...Down to level and term of employment, which has an immediate impact on the RRR process-how long you have worked for the organisation.	Australia Post	11/04/06
4	8	Moore	<i>Staffing and equipment changes</i> The machines have come from the southern states are going to be located at Nambour and that will affect jobs and function- Are you going to need fewer people or just people in a different spot? <i>Mr Newman: There will be fewer in Bundaberg and Maryborough and it will require some extras in the Sunshine Coast. I do not have the exact numbers here.</i> If I could get those on notice, that would be very useful.	Australia Post	11/04/06
5	9	Moore	<i>Staffing and equipment changes</i> Can you tell me or take on notice what the consultation with government has been in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Nambour?	Australia Post	18/04/06
6	10	Conroy	<i>Ms Weissel</i> Was it the manager who went around? What level of officer visited the home? There was only one person, not two as has been reported? The person could have had a driver drive them to the house?	Australia Post	11/04/06
7	10-11	Conroy	<i>Ms Weissel</i> I just want to confirm that compensation has not been denied. As you said, you have reprimanded the officer who made that claim. So were there disciplinary measures?	Australia Post	11/04/06
8	12	Conroy	<i>Facility Nominated Doctors (FNDs)</i> All your FNDs are GPs. They are not specialists, are they? I understand that Australia Post states this preference for	Australia Post	18/04/06

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			your FND opinions for determining compensation claims repeatedly in compensation documents. Is that right?		
9	12	Moore	Right of appeal Is there a right of appeal for a member if they are concerned about the doctor you have referred them to? If someone is going through a process and the FND or the doctor under the compensation case - and I am aware that they are separate - is a doctor that the staff member or the staff member's practitioner has some concerns about - previous interaction and that kind of thing - is there any process in the system that can allow that to be discussed before they attend that practitioner?	Australia Post	11/04/06
10	13	Conroy	Facility Nominated Doctors (FNDs) To go to a doctor who is one of your FNDs, they do not know at the time that this person could end up being a witness against them on your behalf. And you do not think that is conflict of interest? They are on your payroll; you pay them, and then they turn up as your witness against the poor person who went to them voluntarily. <i>Mr McDonald: Let me check what the process is in relation to that particular circumstance.</i>	Australia Post	11/04/06
11	14	Conroy	Facility Nominated Doctors (FNDs) Could Post provide to this committee the actual statistics relating to the situation for each state - that is, what percentage of injured workers are found unfit for work by FNDs and personal GPs?	Australia Post	13/04/06
12	14	Conroy	InjuryNET Can you tell me how InjuryNET came to get the contract to provide doctors to Australia Post? Was there a tendering process? Do you know what the key performance indicators under the contract are?	Australia Post	11/04/06
13	15	Conroy	InjuryNET Could you provide some tender documentation if it is available? What criteria did Australia Post use to assess the various tenders? Is the contract up for renewal soon? Was it a permanent contract?	Australia Post	11/04/06
14	15	Conroy	Medical adviser Queensland I understand that the medical adviser in Queensland has been replaced by InjuryNET. Is that correct? The reason for his going was voluntary - he wanted to go?	Australia Post	18/04/06
15	15-16	Conroy	Referrals 8,000 referrals, \$1.42 million - this amounts to an average cost of \$177.50 for a GP consultation. In contrast, an average GP visit costs around \$45 to \$50. Why is Australia Post paying such a massive premium to its facility nominated doctors? If this \$1.42 million does not apply to just the doctor visits you might let us know, but that was the answer you gave us previously. So I assumed that that was the cost of the doctors.	Australia Post	11/04/06
16	16	Conroy	Manager's incentive payments Does Australia Post provide its management with any long-term incentive payments that are linked to reducing workplace injury lost time costs? If they reduce it from X to Y do they get a performance	Australia Post	18/04/06

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			bonus? Are you able to identify what all the criteria are but, more specifically, what the criteria for this item are?		
17	16	Conroy	Senior Medical Adviser I understand that Post's senior medical adviser, Dr Milecki, is the only shareholder of InjuryNET Pty Ltd and is the director and company secretary. Were these arrangements formally disclosed to Post, and to whom and when? What moneys have been paid to Dr Milecki in InjuryNET Pty Ltd over the past three years?	Australia Post	18/04/06
18	17	Conroy	Injury management program Is the injury management early intervention program considered intellectual property, and if so who owns the intellectual property and who supplied it? I understand that Australia Post has sought to market its expertise in reducing compensation costs. Is that correct? Can you provide the committee with the details of any seminars that Australia Post have spoken at extolling the virtues of the program?	Australia Post	13/04/06
19	17	Conroy	Intellectual Property If the intellectual property is not owned by Australia Post, what was the initial cost paid to the supplier and what is the annual cost of the program that has been paid to the supplier since its inception?	Australia Post	11/04/06
20	Tabled	Conroy	Licensed Post Offices 1. What LPOs have closed in the last 12 months? 2. What LPOs have opened in the last 12 months? 3. What CMAs or CPAs have closed in the last 12 months? 4. What CMAs or CPAs have opened in the last 12 months? 5. What corporate post offices have been converted to LPOs in the last 12 months? 6. Have any greenfields corporate or licensed post offices opened in the last 12 months? 7. How many franchised post shops have been opened in the last 12 months? 8. What post offices have Australia Post selected to be converted to franchised postshops?	Australia Post	11/04/06
21	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised postshops What is Australia Post's budget for franchised postshops? Is Australia Post continuing to hold discussions and consult with POAAL and the CEPU in relation to the franchised postshop proposal? Will Australia Post adhere to the commitment made by Mr Bill Mitchell in Business Review Weekly (BRW, Jan 19 - Feb 22) that Australia Post "...will not locate a franchised outlet in an area that would adversely affect a corporate or licensed outlet"? Will the advent of franchised postshops result in a lessening in the level of support to the owner/operators of Licensed Post Offices?	Australia Post	11/04/06
22	Tabled	Conroy	Setting up new LPOs in established suburbs If Australia Post decides to put a post office in a new shopping centre, in an established suburb/area, does Australia Post give the nearest Licensee first option on relocating to the shopping centre?	Australia Post	11/04/06

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			Before Australia Post opens a post office (of any sort) in a new shopping centre, does Australia Post do due diligence and calculate what impact that will have on any existing LPOs in the area?		
23	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Manual LPOs with ATMs</p> <p>I understand that many Licensees who operate manual (non electronic) LPOs in rural and isolated areas provide extra services for their customers unavailable to them via Australia Post, including in some cases the provision of ATMs (at the Licensee's expense). Does Australia Post support Licensees adding these services, especially where it can help guarantee the ongoing viability of the LPO (thus helping AP meet its CSO) and allow the LPO to continue to serve its local community?</p> <p>If these LPOs at some stage are provided with Bank@Post facilities by Australia Post, how would Australia Post treat the ATM installation?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06
24	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Mail Contractors - Australia Post offer to vary parcel contract unit rates</p> <p>I understand that at the end of 2005, Australia Post wrote to all Parcel Contractors with the intention of altering fees paid to Contractors for parcel delivery.</p> <p>Australia Post advised Contractors that it had carried out a "delivery analysis", and its offer to alter payments to Contractors was based on this analysis. No details of the analysis have been provided to Contractors. When was the analysis carried out? By whom? How was the analysis done?</p> <p>If a contractor chooses not to accept Australia Post's offer to vary their contract, what will happen?</p> <p>Can Australia Post guarantee that any contractor failing to sign the variation will neither be discriminated against nor be disadvantaged should they choose to re-tender for their contract when its term expires?</p> <p>Why did Australia Post attempt to impose this change at the end of the year, when Contractors were busy with Christmas mail and unable to give the proposal proper consideration?</p> <p>Why hasn't Australia Post chosen to introduce the revised pricing scheme as contracts fall due, thus giving tenderers the opportunity to submit a realistic tender?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06
25	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Mail Contractors - Australia Post requiring contractors to be on call 24 hours per day</p> <p>I understand that in many mail contracts, contractors are required to be on call 24 hours a day. Clause 1.4 of Part E of the mail contract notes that Australia Post may require the Contractor to provide services 7 days per week (including public holidays) and 24 hours per day. How does this fit in with Australia Post's requirements that Contractors adhere to OH&S standards? How does this fit in with Contractors who have other employment, such as owning a Licensed Post Office, or driving a school bus?</p> <p>What proportion of mail carried by street mail contractors is reserved services mail?</p> <p>How much mail carried by Australia Post as a standard letter weighs between 50g and 250g?</p> <p>Are there any qualifications or prerequisites required for prospective street mail contractors?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06

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			<p>Are previous employees of Australia Post disqualified to become Mail Contractors?</p> <p>How many Mail Contractors are there in the following categories?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street delivery • Rural/roadside • Messenger Post • Parcels • Other 		
26	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Facility Nominated Doctors</p> <p>In its answer to question on notice no.224 from the Budget round of estimates Australia Post stated that approximately 8,000 referrals have been made to Facility Nominated Doctors over the last two years.</p> <p>How many consultations with facility nominated doctors took place as a result of these referrals?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06
27	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Mail Holding Service</p> <p>Can Australia Post confirm that from 24 April 2006 it will introduce a charge for concession card holders using the Mail Holding Service?</p> <p>Why did Australia Post decide to introduce this charge? much money does Australia Post believe that it will raise from the imposition of this charge?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06
28	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Dividends</p> <p>Can Post advise the amount of dividends that it has paid to the Commonwealth in each financial year since 1995/96?</p>	Australia Post	11/04/06
29	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>DPP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned? 2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bring charges against the accused party b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges c. Return the brief for no further action 3. Did the agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, give details. 4. Did the agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, give details. 	Australia Post	11/04/06
30	22	Conroy	<p>CEO Overseas Travel</p> <p>How long has Mr Trujillo spent overseas since he started as Telstra's CEO?</p> <p>I have read in the press that the trip to Barcelona is his third trip to an overseas conference since he started with Telstra; is that correct?</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
31	23	Conroy	<p>CEO's Directorships</p> <p>I read that Mr McGauchie had said it was entirely appropriate that he keep one directorship.</p> <p>Is there any time frame as to when he will comply with Mr McGauchie's request?</p> <p>Perhaps we could get an indication from Mr Trujillo as to when he intends to comply.</p>	Telstra	02/05/06

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32	24	Conroy	American appointments How many Americans have joined since we last talked? What number are we up to now of appointments of Americans from outside the company since Mr Trujillo started?	Telstra	02/05/06
33	25	Conroy	Americans on contract I am also interested in Americans on contract. Could you give us a breakdown of all the nationalities.	Telstra	02/05/06
34	39	Conroy	Co-location of equipment What does Telstra charge competitors to co-locate their equipment on Telstra sites? What does Telstra charge competitors to co-locate their equipment on government funded sites?	Telstra	02/05/06
35	40	Joyce	CDMA EVDO Tell me about the history of the CDMA EVDO network in the United States compared to the 3 G GSM network and what coverage each of them has.	Telstra	02/05/06
36	43	Ronaldson	Press Release Who authorised the removal of this press release from the website? Who made the decision about this expenditure, which was announced in a press release? When was it removed from the website? Why is this money not being spent? And did the board approve the expenditure of the \$200 million?	Telstra	02/05/06
37	45	Nash	Maintenance & Repair rural & regional Australia What are your estimates for the cost of maintenance and repair in rural and regional Australia. You quite often use a figure, not four different categories of things.	Telstra	02/05/06
38	45	Ronaldson	Maintenance & Repair rural & regional Australia Sixty-five per cent of the \$210 million was going to Telstra Country Wide. How much of this \$210 million is going to regional and rural maintenance?	Telstra	02/05/06
39	46	Nash	Maintenance & Repair rural & regional Australia My understanding is that is was more like \$870 million. Is that completely incorrect? <i>(Mr Pinel: ...you are asking about copper network only, and by rural and regional your are meaning – non-metropolitan)</i>	Telstra	02/05/06
40	47	Conroy	Customer Access Network I have some questions about the performance of Telstra's customer access network. We learnt that last year 14 per cent of Telstra's line had faults on them. How do these fault levels compare with the performance of the network over previous years? I am just looking for the comparison.	Telstra	02/05/06
41	47	Conroy	Customer Access Network How do fault rates in Telstra Country Wide areas compare with these national fault rate figures, say, in July 2005?	Telstra	02/05/06
42	49	Conroy	Telstra spending on maintenance How much more per year is Telstra spending on maintenance as a result of these increased fault rates? Presumably if faults are getting worse you are having to spend more on maintenance.	Telstra	02/05/06
43	55	Nash	Overturn of Board decision in relation to expenditure That extra funding that was pulled, changed, redirected or whatever-was any of that money redirected from CDMA mobile tower infrastructure?	Telstra	02/05/06
44	55	Ronaldson	Press Release	Telstra	02/05/06

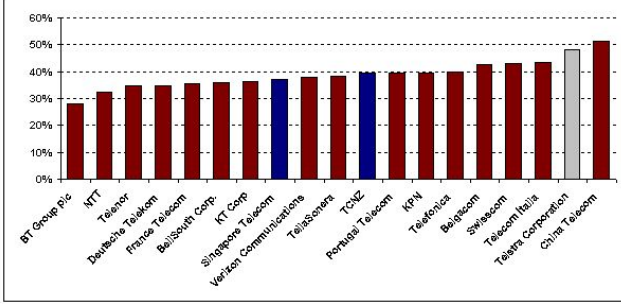
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			It was a draft press release, was it? Who in the government received it?		
45	55	Conroy	Press Release We would like to know who actually made a decision to consult the government, consult the NFF, their mum, phone a friend, but ignore the ALP.	Telstra	02/05/06
46	61	Nash	Alcatel partnership In terms of Alcatel and the potential partnership you will have if you get off the on-hold with the fibre-to-the-node, what process was put in place that led to your picking Alcatel? <i>(Mr Gration: We went to a number of the leading companies and leading providers in the world of this sort of technology....)</i> How many companies? Let us know if it was two or three or four?	Telstra	02/05/06
47	69	Conroy	Crosby Textor How much money has Telstra paid to Crosby Textor since they were hired by the company? And if it is a subcomponent of Carnegie Wylie. What is the value of that contract? Is it a fixed term, fixed price?	Telstra	02/05/06
48	74	Conroy	Mr Burgess When was the last time Mr Burgess met with a government minister? A departmental official?	Telstra	02/05/06
49	75	Conroy	Egon Zender and Spencer Stewart They (Stewart) were doing the non-executive directors and Zender was doing – <i>the CEO</i> Can you double-check that?	Telstra	02/05/06
50	76-77	Adams	Payphone services WA On part of our Brookton Highway, which is a fairly thick-forested area 40 kilometres from Perth, you cannot get coverage. Another is the Albany Highway, about 40 kilometres south.	Telstra	02/05/06
51	79	Ronaldson	Newground Are you prepared to take on notice and provide the committee with the cost of implementing Newground?	Telstra	02/05/06
52	79	Ronaldson	XTel program Are you prepared to take on notice and provide the committee with the number of regional and rural customers who will benefit from the XTel program and the costs of that?	Telstra	02/05/06
53	79	Ronaldson	Newground Are you able to provide the committee with the numbers who will benefit from Newground application and the extension of the dB loss?	Telstra	02/05/06
54	84	Ronaldson	Regulatory requirements In terms of the amount of time that is spent on regulatory requirements, what is the breakdown between time actually spent complying with the regulatory regime and how much time is spent actually fighting decisions or trying to overturn regulations? I presume you have a dedicated group within that that focuses solely on the politics of regulation?	Telstra	02/05/06
55	85-86	Joyce	Local Presence Plan I am concerned with this local presence plan, about whether we are going to have the capacity when these	Telstra	02/05/06

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			<p>people retire. This is a concern; the knowledge base is about to go and there is no-one there to replace it. That is basically the crux of it. Do you have any plan? Are they going to be based in the town? What I am debunking is that this idea of a fly in, fly out type arrangement is going to have the capacity to do the job.</p>		
56	87	Conroy	<p>Contracts for wholesale customers I was asking about reducing contracts for your wholesale customers from five years to six months, and there seemed to be some confusion about whether that was or was not happening. So it is correct that you have reduced your contract terms to six months?</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
57	90-91	Conroy	<p>iiNet complaint Did iiNet complain to Telstra about the pricing before lodging an access dispute? I genuinely believe that iiNet have lodged a backhaul dispute.</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
58	94	Conroy	<p>Cross subsidy of regional backhaul routes It is entirely possible that Telstra might be cross-subsidised in the costs of regional backhaul routes with the profits it makes on the other higher volume backhaul routes? Is that plausible? You would not actually know, would you? You do not know what the price is. Let us know if you actually do cross-subsidise the backhaul. Will you take that on notice?</p>	Telstra	05/05/06
59	98	Ronaldson	<p>Band 4 costs Where id the \$149 band 4 cost that was referred to come from? You say that figure is accepted by the ACCC, accepted by everyone else, or is that a Telstra figure? Could you provide me with the details.</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
60	102	Conroy	<p>Telstra job cuts Can I get a breakdown of the job functions of these employees – I am talking about for the full amount, not the 1,000 – for example, network technicians, IT technicians, research and development staff, call centre workers, customer service staff, Telstra Country Wide employees, management? Can I get that sort of breakdown of the proposed 10,000 to 12,000? Can I get what is available? Could I get a geographic breakdown as well of Queensland, New South Wales?</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
61	102-103	Conroy	<p>Redundancy processes The terms that Telstra will be offering these employees upon termination? The usual redundancy packages, and whether the job function of these employees will be replaced by overseas contractors.</p>	Telstra	02/05/06
62	103	Conroy	<p>Redundancy processes In how many locations are Telstra staff employed? You can take these ones on notice. If you could provide details of the street, town, suburb, location. For each of these locations cold you provide how many staff are directly employed by Telstra, how many are contract labour hire and the name of the contractor labour</p>	Telstra	02/05/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			hire firm?		
63	103	Conroy	Redundancy processes Could you please provide an indication of which of these locations contains call centre staff and the numbers of staff employed in call centres in each location?	Telstra	02/05/06
64	103	Conroy	Redundancy processes For each of these locations could you indicate the Telstra business units the staff belong to and the numbers of staff at each location within each business unit, and how many call centres are operated under subcontract to Telstra? If these call centres are not included in the locations discussed above, could you please provide details of the locations of these call centres, the companies subcontracting this service and the length of their contract with Telstra?	Telstra	02/05/06
65	103	Ronaldson	Mail-out costs Can I just go back to the costs of the mail-out. I have actually revisited that. It is probably closer to about \$2.5 million. I was looking at the postage costs for only two mail-outs. Can you get me some precise figures, please, on the costs of those mail-outs, including stationery, printing, clearing house and all those sorts of things?	Telstra	02/05/06
66	106	Nash	Could you please supply the committee with the exact measurements, the exact space usage, the exact space available at the moment on those towers and why CDMA has to be taken away from that to provide you with enough space to run your new network? ... I am sure somebody would be able to do it. If you can ascertain that you need the space, I am sure you have somebody who can inform the committee of how you arrived at that. Mr Jennings—We can give you some examples, certainly.	Telstra	02/05/06
67	Tabled	Conroy	Telstra staffing Issues 1. How many locations are there where Telstra staff are employed? Please provide details of street and town/suburb location. 2. For each of these locations please provide details of how many staff are directly employed by Telstra and how many are contract/labour hire and the name of the contractor/labour hire firm. 3. For each of these locations please provide indicate which locations contain call centre staff and the numbers of staff employed in call centres in each location. 4. For each of these locations indicate the Telstra business unit/s these staff belong to and the numbers of staff at each location within each business unit. 5. How many call centres are operated under subcontract to Telstra? If these call centres are not included in the locations discussed above, please provide details of the locations of these call centres, the company sub-contracting this service and the length of their contract with Telstra.	Telstra	02/05/06
68	Tabled	Conroy	One Cent customer bills (notice) 1. How many bills did Telstra issue in the last year for accounts of less than 50c? 2. How many of these bills were for accounts that were outstanding to the value of 1c? 3. What steps is Telstra taking to ensure that it does not	Telstra	02/05/06

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			continue to issue bills for miniscule amounts like this?		
69	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Treatment of SES Phone Lines (notice)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What arrangements does Telstra have in place for ensuring the priority repair of telephone services connecting locations that serve as bases for the police, fire and ambulance services? 2. Do similar arrangements apply to State Emergency Services (SES)? 3. Is Telstra aware of a recent event in which the Benalla community was put at risk by the phone connection to the local SES unit being left inoperative by Telstra for a number of days before it was repaired? 4. What was the cause of this delay? 5. Please provide details of any other instances known to Telstra in which phone connections to local SES units have been allowed to remain inoperative for a period exceeding 1 day. 6. In light of the fact that SES respond to thousands of calls each year for emergency assistance ranging from assisting in responses to storm damage, road accident rescue, plane crashes, locating lost bush walkers and other land searches, will Telstra consider treating SES units equally to police, fire and ambulance locations in future? 	Telstra	02/05/06
70	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Cyclone Clare (notice)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of the period during which telephone services were unavailable in the towns of Karratha, Newman, Port Hedland and Dampier in the days following Cyclone Clare. 2. What was the cause of these service disruptions? 3. Are claims that up to 30,000 people were without telephone services in the aftermath of the cyclone accurate? 4. What were the reasons for the delays in returning services to these communities? 5. What strategies does Telstra have in place to prevent telecommunications services from being lost as a result of cyclones? 6. What processes has Telstra put in place to prevent a reoccurrence of the level of service disruptions experienced in Western Australia as a result of Cyclone Clare? 	Telstra	02/05/06
71	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>ULL</p> <p>I refer you to the following portion of the Hansard from the latest Senate Estimates hearings (Page 103):</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>Going back to the ULL again, do you think your decision to lift the access prices in metropolitan areas will result in increased broadband prices?</i></p> <p>Dr Warren—<i>In relation to the decision to lift the ULL in metropolitan areas, no, I do not think that is the case. Looking at the sort of public information that the ULL builders have put out there and the sorts of margins that they are talking about and that they believe they can make shifting from a resale base to a ULL base, Optus, for example, have talked about a monthly ARPU, revenue per customer, of about \$120. They say their resale costs at the moment are about \$80. If they move</i></p>	Telstra	02/05/06 + 3 attach'ts

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd												
			<p><i>to ULL, on a \$22 plan, on a \$22 ULL basis, their costs will total about \$35. So \$22 to Telstra and then—what is that?—\$13 extra in their additional costs. That is what they are telling the market.</i></p> <p><i>Our view is that if we were to go from \$22 up to \$30, which we believe is the average cost, that would clearly see an \$8 increase in their costs. But we are still a long way from their \$120 ARPU number. There is still sufficient margin there. To be clear, they are gross margins. So there are other costs that they have to incur in there. But our view is that, looking at what they are saying, they are making substantial margins still on ULL build. So we would expect to see still significant ULL build.</i></p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>Is that for both existing and new contracts?</i></p> <p>Dr Warren—<i>Yes, that is at \$22 or at \$30. We are saying the extra \$8, from what we can see—we are not building this stuff, so we have to go on what they are putting out to the market. They have substantial margins. Most of the margin gain comes from no longer being a reseller of the Telstra network but instead putting their own network in place using ULL. There is substantial margin difference there.</i></p> <p>I note that this is a fairly explicit claim from Telstra to the Estimates Committee hearing that an increase in the price to competitors of access to the Unconditioned Local Loop (the copper from a household to the nearest exchange building) to \$30 would not result in increased broadband prices to consumers.</p> <p>The price in CBD areas is presently \$13 and in metro and outer metro areas it is \$22.</p> <p>Telstra essentially said that competitors would “absorb” cost increases of up to 230% because they enjoyed such enormous margins.</p> <p>Please note the margins of various telecommunications companies below:</p> <p><u>Australian Telco EBITDA Margins: Most Recent Reporting Period and (Previous Period)</u></p> <table data-bbox="563 1509 1118 1570"> <thead> <tr> <th>Telstra</th> <th>Optus</th> <th>AAPT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>46.6 % (48.6%)</td> <td>28.1% (30.6%)</td> <td>5.6% (12.7%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other competitors:</p> <table data-bbox="563 1630 1034 1659"> <tr> <td>iiNet</td> <td>26% (EBITA, 2005)</td> </tr> </table> <table data-bbox="563 1693 1034 1722"> <tr> <td>Powertel</td> <td>13% (EBITA, 2005)</td> </tr> </table> <table data-bbox="563 1756 1062 1785"> <tr> <td>Macquarie Telecom</td> <td>0.3% (EDITDA, 2005)</td> </tr> </table> <p>I would also note that Telstra is one of the most profitable telecommunications companies in the world:</p>	Telstra	Optus	AAPT	46.6 % (48.6%)	28.1% (30.6%)	5.6% (12.7%)	iiNet	26% (EBITA, 2005)	Powertel	13% (EBITA, 2005)	Macquarie Telecom	0.3% (EDITDA, 2005)		
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QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p><u>International Profit Comparisons</u></p>  <p>Considering this information and your knowledge of the market:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Is Telstra still of the view that your decision to lift the access prices in metropolitan and outer-metropolitan areas will not result in increased broadband prices? B. If Telstra is still of the view that the decision to lift the access prices in metropolitan and outer-metropolitan areas will not result in increased broadband prices, please provide modelling to support this proposition. C. The current retail price of ADSL begins at well below \$30 per month. How will your competitors sell ADSL for less than \$30 when they must pay Telstra \$30 to access the customer? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is Telstra of the view that these customers on entry-price ADSL subscriptions will be unprofitable or profitable for their competitors? b. Is Telstra of the view that these customers on entry-price ADSL subscriptions will be unprofitable or profitable for themselves? D. What is Telstra’s estimation of the number of CBD broadband subscribers and potential subscribers with no access to cable Internet at the present time? E. Are any service providers other than Telstra BigPond able to deliver broadband services over this cable as an alternative to the copper? F. What is Telstra’s view of the likely market trends in entry-level ADSL costs for retail consumers over the next one, two and three years? G. I note that Telstra’s own ADSL product has an entry price of \$29.95 per month. Do you foresee that price changing over the next year? In which direction do you see it changing? By how much? H. Will Telstra’s decision to lift the access prices in metropolitan and outer metropolitan areas increase line rentals for fixed-line telephone service? I. What is Telstra’s current monthly rental cost to consumers for an entry-level line rental for a fixed-line telephone service in metropolitan and outer-metropolitan areas? J. Please provide a breakdown of services purchased by retail consumers – such as fixed line phones and ADSL – and the minimum monthly charge which consumers may currently purchase these services from both Telstra and your major competitors K. What is Telstra’s estimate of how long any dispute arising from its decision to lift the ULL access prices 		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			will take to resolve?		
72	Tabled	Wortley	<p>Training of technicians</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could you explain the in-house term “champion” in relation to the training of technicians in ADSL installation and/or troubleshooting. And also the effectiveness of this type of training? 2. Can you explain the training and success of the “champion training system” including the rationale behind it and the view of the technicians regarding the adequacy of the training? 3. Would you also explain the impact of this type of training on delivery of customer service in relation to installation and troubleshooting? 4. Is it correct that it has led to services not being activated correctly, with users being left with incorrectly installed services and some technicians not having the confidence to troubleshoot issues following installation? 5. Can you confirm that the trainer is adequately trained to be a trainer, and that there exists follow up, to ensure the training has been adequately carried out and that the technicians feel they are adequately trained? 6. Is the “champion” style of training a money saving exercise in relation to travel expenses and also a means of dealing with inadequate staffing, for example not enough staff employed to cover for those technicians who should be attending proper training? 7. Are you aware of concerns being raised in South Australia where, as a result of unsuccessful “champion” training, services are not activated correctly, users are left with incorrectly installed services and some technicians do not have the confidence to troubleshoot issues following installation? 8. Given the concerns already raised regarding the “champion” approach to training, and Telstra now using this training in other services including: 9. Mobilenet, mobile phone tower and landline repairs and Satellite services, what plans are in place to improve the effectiveness of training of technicians, and provide adequate staffing levels to allow time for appropriate training and therefore the delivery of timely services to customers? 	Telstra	02/05/06
73	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>DPP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned? 2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bring charges against the accused party b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges c. Return the brief for no further action 3. Did the agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? 	Telstra	05/05/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>a. If so, give details.</p> <p>4. Did the agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?</p> <p>a. If so, give details.</p>		
74	117	George Campbell	<p>Comments by Kerry O'Keefe Have there been any actions initiated against Mr O'Keefe for his comments on the third day's play of the New Year cricket test?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Can you outline to me those comments?</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—He made several comments during the day about the quality of Ricardo Tomatoes, which I understand are organic—very good. He thanked the Loftus Public School for gifting him cakes. He solicited a lobster from a mate of his:...on the south coast who supplies us with lobster every Sydney Test: day three, no sighting, what's going on, have you brushed us? Jump in that ocean, get your bottom into gear and get us some lobbies.</p> <p>Those were the comments of Mr O'Keefe. He said: Lobsters are nil at the moment, has the potential to grow to at least two tomorrow. He then went on to solicit donuts, and I think the reference was very directly to those Krispy Kreme donuts. References were made to Gilchrist hitting some 'crisp shots' and creaming shots to fine leg, and he did say at the end of the thing: That's my endorsements for the day. I don't need a new car. It seems to me that they were pretty blatant.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am not aware of those comments and I am not aware of any action being taken. I am quite prepared to take that on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I am making the point, Mr Balding, that they seem to be pretty blatant comments. I have listened to the tape. They certainly sounded very blatant to me and I wonder why the ABC has not jumped as rapidly on Mr O'Keefe as it did on Mr Cox.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I do not know.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I do not particularly want to damage 'The Skull'. I actually think he is one of the better commentators around the place. Nevertheless, everybody should be treated equally.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Yes. I do not know whether action has or has not been taken. I would like to take that on notice and follow it up for you.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
75	118	George Campbell	<p>Staff Dispute I do not think there is any doubt about the finding. What I am asking, Mr Pendleton, is: what action have you taken in respect of Mr Mason since this incident?</p> <p>Mr Pendleton—I would have to take that on notice, but I am not sure that there was any need for action. I would have to confer with the director of radio in relation to that specifically, as his line manager.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Are you saying that a manager within your structure acted in this manner in an interview, the commission has found that the behaviour was less than what you would expect, yet the commission has done nothing with respect to counselling this manager about his future behaviour?</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>Mr Pendleton—In relation to the interaction between the director and Mr Mason, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I ask you to take it on notice. Can I also ask you to take on notice whether or not you will look at other cases, including the Cox case, where Mr Mason has been involved in disciplinary matters or in charges against other individuals, given the findings in this case?</p>		
76	119	George Campbell	<p>Staff Dispute</p> <p>Mr Balding—I believe that the director of radio has had a discussion with Mr Mason, but the actual outcome of that discussion I am not aware of. I can take that on notice. It is not as if we did not do anything. I am aware that the director of radio has had discussions with Mr Mason.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I would appreciate your taking it on notice, Mr Balding, and advising us perhaps what the outcome of those discussions were and whether or not you intend to pursue the matter any further with him.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
77	120	George Campbell	<p>Police Checks for Staff</p> <p>Mr Balding, Annie Lawson, in the <i>Age</i> column 'Inside Edge' carried a story on 7 November that talked about police checks for staff being proposed in an occupational health and safety meeting. Has any policy been adopted in that area?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Police checks?</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—The article says: ABC staff in Melbourne were apprehensive last week about a proposal to conduct police checks on all employees ...</p> <p>Mr Balding—All employees at Melbourne?</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—In Melbourne. That appeared in the <i>Age</i> on the 7th of the 11th.</p> <p>Mr Balding—It could be something to do with the accreditation for the Commonwealth Games, but I cannot comprehend why all employees would be subjected to a police check.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—It said it emerged as part of a discussion about a recent security breach in which guards allowed someone access to all parts of the building without an ID pass. It does not appear to be related to the Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am not aware of that. Mr Green, are you?</p> <p>Mr Green—No. I have no further information on that.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can I ask you again to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Yes, certainly.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
78	121	George Campbell	<p>Cost of Legal Dispute</p> <p>The <i>Bulletin</i> article says that the cost of producing this material would be about \$18,000, which is usually used as an argument why not to produce material. We get it quite often from government departments.</p> <p>Mr Green—That is not our argument.</p> <p>Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—No. I would like to know how much this case has cost the ABC so far in defending the point that you have just made.</p> <p>Mr Green—We can happily provide that on notice.</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
79	121	George Campbell	<p>Illness at Toowong Studios Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Finally, Mr Balding, have any further cases of cancer arisen since? Mr Balding—Not that we are aware of. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Not that you are aware of? Mr Pendleton—Not in Queensland. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Yes. Mr Balding—At Toowong. Mr Pendleton—At Toowong. Not that I am aware of. I probably need to take it on notice. I am just not certain. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Could you do that?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
80	124	Wortley	<p>Staff Movements Can you make comment as to whether it is usual ABC practice to target senior experienced journalists by changing their job, their hours of work and their authorisation to work across the ABC without any real consultation? Is the ABC aware that this often leads to job dissatisfaction and a loss to the ABC and, therefore, the Australian public? Mr Cameron—We may be talking about one or two individual cases there, which I am not really qualified to give you forensic answers to here and now. If you want to provide me with those details, I will attempt to satisfy your concerns. Senator WORTLEY—I will do that. Can you confirm whether or not the journalists replacing the senior experienced journalists are provided with appropriate levels of training and support? Mr Cameron—I think I can, with considerable confidence, but if you have specific questions about that, again, I will address them on notice. Senator WORTLEY—Would you be able to take that on notice and look into the journalists that have replaced senior journalists in the South Australian newsrooms? Mr Cameron—Yes. I think I can do so reasonably— Senator WORTLEY—And their training. Mr Cameron—sorry, generically. But if you have specific examples as well, I would look at those.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
81	124	Wortley	<p>Employment of Journalists At the supplementary budget estimates in October/November, questions were asked regarding the number of journalists employed at each level in the major city and regional newsrooms from 1 October 2004 to 1 October 2005. I note that your response did not provide a breakdown for each of the newsrooms. The breakdown was for city and regional, but not specifically for the newsrooms. Would you now be able to provide a breakdown for each level for each newsroom and include the cadets, clearly labelled along with any other trainee type positions in those newsrooms? Mr Cameron—State by state and territory by territory? Senator WORTLEY—Yes. Is it possible to do that to 31 January now? It was to October, but— Mr Balding—We can bring it up to the latest date. Mr Cameron—Yes, we can. It is a fairly major breakdown, but I guess we can provide that. Senator WORTLEY—I do have some other questions,</p>	ABC	20/04/06 + 1 attach't

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			but I will put those on notice, because we do have an agreement regarding timeframe here. I will hand it back to the chair.		
82	126/127	Ronaldson	<p>Cost of Radio Survey WA How much was spent effectively trying to overturn the 8,000 signatures by interviewing a thousand? What was the cost of that?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I do not know. I can take that onboard. ... I have given a personal commitment to review it [720ABC morning broadcast schedule] ...I will do it as soon as I can...I will undertake to complete that before the end of February.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
83	129	Conroy	<p>Engagement of Executive Search Agency How did the board come to hire Egon Zehnder International to perform the executive for the UND. Was there a tender?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I was not across that issue. I was not involved with that. I can find out for you.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Okay. Do you know what the cost of the contract is?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
84	132	Conroy	<p>KPMG report How much has the exercise cost the ABC? You have not quantified it at this stage? Will there be a figure?</p> <p>Mr Balding—No, I have not quantified it. I can take it on notice and try and assess it.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
85	136	Ronaldson	<p>NewsRadio Program Radio National—a popular ABC News Radio program called <i>Star Stuff</i> apparently plays on Saturday and Sunday nights. Is anyone aware of this program, <i>Star Stuff</i> on Radio National?</p> <p>Mr Green—Yes, it is on News Radio.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—News Radio, that is right. Is it right that the program rates four or five times more highly than News Radio's general programming?</p> <p>Mr Green—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Off the top of your head though, Mr Green, is it a reasonable claim?</p> <p>Mr Green—Yes, I think it has a particular following. It takes an approach to astronomy that is not available elsewhere and I think there is appreciation for that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Is it right that the ABC is planning to axe this program and replace it with a package of science clips from overseas?</p> <p>Mr Green—I cannot respond to that. I am not aware of that. That may be the case. I mean, I cannot speak for the director of radio on that matter but I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—If you could take that on notice. If you could just find please where it rates and whether this is indeed correct. Thank you.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
86	138	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Today Tonight Complaint Thank you. Before we go on, did the Australian Broadcasting Authority uphold the complaint about <i>Media Watch</i> coverage of an item on Channel 7's <i>Today Tonight</i> about Middle Eastern men in Sydney? Can you provide the details?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Mr Green may have more information in</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>respect of the detail.</p> <p>Mr Green—There are several issues in relation to this program. <i>Media Watch</i>'s critique of <i>Today Tonight</i> was in relation to the way they allegedly edited the material that they put to air in terms of the interviews they had with the various young people of that community. ACMA, when looking at a complaint from a viewer, was looking at a separate question of fairness. I do not think it is right to bring together both of those issues and present it as the one issue.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Thank you, Mr Green. You might take it on notice and provide me with the details and documentation in relation to that. You have said that there are—</p> <p>Mr Green—That is right. And, with respect, you might want to pursue that with ACMA when they appear before you later.</p>		
87	140	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Audience Figures</p> <p>I would have thought that if a broadcast reaches you but you choose not to listen to it or you choose not to watch it, there is no point having a reach out there if people do not watch or listen to it.</p> <p>Mr Balding—In the reach, this is the measurement of people who are actually watching and listening.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Perhaps you would like to provide me with details—a comparison right across Australia.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am more than happy to do that.</p>	ABC	06/04/06 + 2 attach'ts
88	141	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Breach of Guidelines</p> <p>In the answers that you gave you kept repeating, 'We don't have the tapes; therefore we can't work out if there was a breach.' Could you take this on notice: I would like a list of all the programs that you tape, how long you keep those tapes and who has access to them, because that seemed to be the feature or the colour of a lot of your answers: 'Oh, we just don't have the tape, therefore we can't give you a comment in relation to that,' or you have gone back to the journalist. Clearly, the journalist will tell you that they did not say a particular thing.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am more than happy to take that on notice and to outline our policy.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
89	142 xref q101 Att 28	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Jay and the Doctor</p> <p>I have a number of other questions. I refer you to comments in the Triple J guestbook of 3 February this year. One is from a woman claiming to have been a rape victim who objected to apparent jokes about rape on <i>Jay and the Doctor</i> on the same date. Surely, the ABC considers—I will provide you with a copy of this—such jokes about rape to be totally unacceptable?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Let me have a look at that. I will take that on notice.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
90	142	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Monitoring of Triple J program</p> <p>Given the long list of inappropriate remarks that have been made by this pair, and especially by Mr McDougal, and your replies that the tapes are no longer available, will the ABC begin to monitor this program and keep better records?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I will be talking to the director of radio in</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			relation to this program. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Could you take that question on notice and give me some sort of indication of what you propose to do in relation to this program?		
91	143 Attach3	Fierravanti-Wells	News Report of ACT Rally Why then, on 15 November 2005, did the ABC broadcast, with respect to protests against workplace reforms, on Canberra radio national news at 7 am: The ACTU rally is being held at the Canberra racecourse from 8.30 am and the ACT Government has allowed public servants paid leave to attend the demonstration. Talk about an invitation! Mr Balding —Mr Cameron might be able to have a look at that, but I would say that would have been reported as a news item. ... Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Is that acceptable, Mr Balding? Time and place conveniently advertised in the middle of a news bulletin? Mr Balding —If that is in the context of the news story itself, I believe it would be. Mr Cameron might be able to answer. Mr Cameron —I might agree with you to an extent, Senator. If that actually happened, and I will certainly check it, I would have preferred that we did not specify the time and possibly even the venue, because it can be perceived as promotion of a protest. Certainly, there is an obvious news angle in the fact that people were being given paid leave to attend. There is a story in that in basic news terms. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I will provide you with a copy of the documents that I have.	ABC	20/04/06
92	143	Fierravanti-Wells	News Report of ACT Campaign ...and I have another one: on 27 June last year, it not only described the ACT campaign against the government's workplace relations, but it gave the 1800 number for people to ring and register their disapproval of the changes. Is it basically ABC policy to advertise union activities on your programs? Mr Balding —No, Senator, it is not, and I would be very concerned if that was the case. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I am very pleased to hear that, Mr Balding, because that is only one of a number of examples. I will provide you with copies of the documents. I would like to move on to another rally. On 1 March last year, why did ABC NewsRadio advertise a protest against the visiting Israeli Prime Minister in such a way that it appeared the ABC was encouraging, or at least inviting, people to join the protest? Is it the role of the ABC to encourage protests or just those against the Howard government and Israel, Mr Balding? Mr Balding —No, Senator, it is the role of ABC news to report the news, not to encourage or discourage— Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I am pleased to hear that, so I will give you those examples, and I look forward to the answer that you will no doubt give me at the next estimates.	ABC	06/04/06
93	146	Fierravanti-Wells	Industrial Action at ABC Radio I would like to continue with a comment in relation to	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			radio. When your radio current affairs staff went on strike in December, did the announcement on Radio National state that the program <i>AM</i> was not available due to technical problems? That really troubles me, because it is all very well for the ABC to accuse others of lying. When it suits itself, instead of telling everybody that their people had gone on strike, they put it down to 'technical problems'. Somebody might provide an answer in relation to that bulletin.		
94	146 Attach4	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>AM Interview 7 November 2005</p> <p>[I] want to move on to another <i>AM</i> item, on 7 November 2005, when Tony Eastley interviewed Gough Whitlam. Mr Eastley states as a fact to Mr Whitlam, ... as you say in your book, the constitution was subverted. Mr Balding, that is a partisan view of those events—the Labor Party view, the Whitlam supporters' view. It is one view, but Mr Eastley presented it as a fact. Do you have any comment in relation to that?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I was thinking about the context. Was he presenting it as a fact or the fact that it was in the book?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—This is a copy, and I will provide it to you, of an interview between Mr Eastley and Mr Whitlam.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
95	146	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>7.30 Report 7 February 2006</p> <p>Why is it that the first and only time that Kerry O'Brien referred to Saddam Hussein as the 'Butcher of Baghdad', on the <i>7.30 Report</i> of Monday, 7 February 2005, was in a link between a story about allegations of Australian Wheat Board payments and the trial of Saddam Hussein? Again, I will provide you with a copy. In light of the way the ABC has answered questions in the past, can I just reinforce my question. It is quite specifically about Mr O'Brien; it is not about Jill Colgan or Matt Peacock, nor anyone else. I am really concerned that the reason Mr O'Brien referred to Saddam Hussein in this way, only on this occasion, is because it involved a story about Iraq and the AWB. It shows that he is biased. Saddam Hussein only gets highlighted as the 'Butcher of Baghdad' when it is alleged that he has been receiving Australian money. Again, I will provide you with a copy of that.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
96	146	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Stephen Crittenden</p> <p>What about this one: Mr Crittenden, again, on the same program, speculated on Australia's motives for joining the East Asia Summit:</p> <p><i>No wonder John Howard gave a billion dollars to Indonesia after the tsunami. Nothing John Howard does happens by accident.</i></p> <p>Was Mr Crittenden implying corrupt or selfish motives to the Prime Minister by saying he only gave tsunami aid to get Australia invited to the summit? That is Mr Crittenden again. You have obviously spoken to him. He does not really heed when you speak to him, does he?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I can assure you that Mr Crittenden has been spoken to in a very formal sense, and I am more than happy to take that other one on notice.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
97	147	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Staff Disciplinary Action</p> <p>Without naming names—and I appreciate that—why can't you give this committee an outline of the sort of actions</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>that have been taken?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I can give you an outline of our process and procedures, but I think it would be wrong to go into the detail of particular programs or whatever.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Given the sort of matters that have been raised this evening—and the matters that I have raised are only a small portion of other matters that have been previously raised—I think we are entitled to know the nature of disciplinary action that the ABC alleges that it takes in relation to clear breaches.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I can definitely give you an overview of the action that we take.</p>		
98	147	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Reference to David Hicks</p> <p>The point I am making is that I assume the ABC accesses documents—public documents that are on the record. Why did you choose, off your own bat, to describe Mr Hicks in that terminology rather than in the terminology that was officially used by the Pentagon?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am not aware of the particular instance; Mr Cameron might be.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—That is fine. I am happy for the answer to be provided.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
99	148	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Reference to David Hicks</p> <p>Why did you reply to this committee that the ABC previously could not find any reference to Mr Hicks being described as an accused war criminal when you upheld a complaint about it? That complaint and your response are even published on your website. I guess the point I am making is: does one side of your organisation know what the other one—</p> <p>Mr Balding—To put it in context, we have said to this committee that we could not find any instances?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—It is my understanding that that is the assertion.</p> <p>Mr Balding—It depends on the timing. I am more than happy to have a look at this.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I will not take up time now, but what I will do—</p> <p>Mr Balding—Because it is going on the public record, I would like to address issues that have been put on the public record.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I will go back and give you the dates.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Thank you.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
100	148/149	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I now turn to another topic, anti-IR bias. What action was taken against Mr Grant Cameron, an ABC broadcaster in Adelaide, following your admission that he made biased comments regarding the government's Work Choices legislation? Is this the sort of professional coverage you would expect, or do you endorse your broadcasters making a series of left-wing anti-government pronouncements? Does anyone know about that incident? I will provide you with a copy of it.</p> <p>Mr Cameron—I do not remember who that is.</p> <p>Mr Balding—What was the name, Senator?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Mr Grant Cameron, an ABC broadcaster in Adelaide.</p>	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			Mr Cameron —We do not know him, I do not think.		
101	149	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Alan Kohler I now turn to Mr Kohler. Mr Alan Kohler has been allowed an editorial slot on <i>Inside Business</i>, a slot he often uses to attack the government when your editorial policies state that the ABC takes no editorial position. What are we going to see next? Tony Jones's political editorial on <i>Lateline</i>, Kerry O'Brien's on the <i>7.30 Report</i>? ...</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I am asking Mr Balding if he would like to comment on what the basis is of Mr Kohler having an editorial slot.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Is there a specific issue there of editorial comment by Mr Kohler?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I will provide you with a copy of the comment. I am conscious of time constraints.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am happy to take them on notice.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
102	149 Attach 8&9	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Use of Draconian Thank you. On <i>The World Today</i> on 27 September, did reporter Daniel Hoare make the following biased comment: <i>There's a school of thought here in Australia that it's unnecessary to introduce draconian terrorism laws.</i> Again, I will provide you with a copy. Tony Jones, on <i>Lateline</i> on 27 October 2005, to Minister Ruddock, asked: <i>Why do you need the draconian secrecy provisions?</i> Further, you went to particular ends in your answers to questions about the Peter Cave report on Jenin to explain it in terms of the dictionary definition of 'massacre'. The <i>Oxford Dictionary</i> defines 'draconian' as 'rigorous, harsh and cruel'. 'Draconian' is a partisan view of the legislation and this has been pushed by its opponents: 'Is it not the view of the government that the laws are draconian?' Why did the ABC reporters adopt one side of the debate as a factual position? Does the ABC believe that the laws are harsh and cruel? Again, I will provide you with a copy.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Again, Senator, I will look at that.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
103	149 Attach6	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Midday News and Business – 12 January 2005 I will go on. On the <i>Midday News and Business</i> program on 12 January last year, the ABC reporter stated the following: The Attorney-General can't bring himself to accept Mamdouh Habib's innocence under the law. Isn't this another example of blatant ABC bias? Was that comment within your editorial policies? I will provide you with a copy.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Again, we need to have a look at the context in which it was said.</p>	ABC	21/04/06
104	149/150	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>The World Today – 31 May 2005 Another example: Kim Landers, on <i>The World Today</i> on 31 May last year, quite wrongly claimed that my Senate colleague Minister Vanstone was at a reconciliation conference and had barged in and announced she was in a hurry and had to speak before the Western Australian Governor, when that was completely false. Isn't this another example, Mr Balding?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am aware of that one. From memory, I</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>have written to Senator Vanstone on that one.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—What was the upshot of what you wrote to Senator Vanstone?</p> <p>Mr Balding—From memory, I believe that Kim Landers was out of context—what she had said.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Was this another example? Was Mr Landers spoken to?</p> <p>Mr Balding—No, Ms Landers.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Ms Landers, sorry.</p> <p>Mr Balding—It is also corrected on the website. I can come back to you, and treat that as a question on notice as well.</p>		
105	150	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>AM – 9 November 2005 – Mick Keelty</p> <p>I would like to conclude with some recent comments in relation to Mick Keelty. I refer to <i>AM</i>, and Karen Barlow, on 9 November last year. The program and its reporter seriously misrepresented the statements made by AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty on the <i>7.30 Report</i>—namely, the reporter, Karen Barlow, misused a quote and stated that Mr Keelty had said the arrests were made entirely through current police powers. In fact, the quote she used related to police powers to shoot people who were shooting at them. His comments actually related to current provisions pertaining to people shooting at police and not proposed changes involving people subject to preventative detention or control orders who may flee police. Commissioner Keelty actually stated in the interview with Kerry O'Brien that the legislative changes made in the previous week had assisted them in their operation to arrest the suspects, and I will give you the transcripts. No senior editorial staff on <i>AM</i>, including the executive producer and the associate producer, spotted the error. This was a serious lapse of editorial management. No correction to this mistake was broadcast on the subsequent day's program. These actions constitute bias, I believe, against the government's passage of counter-terrorism laws and the counter-terrorism raids. I would like you to investigate that and comment appropriately.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I will, Senator.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—The <i>AM</i> reporter said:</p> <p>The Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty, has told Kerry O'Brien that yesterday's arrests were made entirely through current police powers.</p> <p>KERRY O'BRIEN: Does it demonstrate that current powers are adequate?</p> <p>MICK KEELTY: Well, I think they are and I think the issue about the proposed bill was an issue of transparency and I commend transparency when we've got such difficult issues to work through with the community. Here is the <i>7.30 Report</i> transcript:</p> <p>MICK KEELTY: And police are entitled to protect the community. An innocent bystander can be shot as a result of shots being fired in a confrontation such as that, but of course the police officers are entitled to defend themselves as well and, look, I can assure you, Kerry, that police officers are trained regularly. They have to re-train and qualify for that sort of use of force and no police</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>officer looks forward to having to draw their weapon from their holster, I can assure you of that.</p> <p>KERRY O'BRIEN: I am sure not, but does it demonstrate that current powers are adequate?</p> <p>MICK KEELTY: Well, I think they are and I think the issue about the proposed bill was an issue of transparency and I commend transparency when we've got such difficult issues to work through with the community. Earlier in the <i>7.30 Report</i> interview there was the following exchange:</p> <p>KERRY O'BRIEN: So it's clear that you waited until after the amendment, last week's amendment was rushed through both houses of parliament and royal assent to that amendment before you put your plan into motion; that's correct? Can we assume that you began to put that plan into motion immediately after that impediment was removed?</p> <p>MICK KEELTY: Well, certainly on the advice of the DPP and I think that's acknowledged even in your prelude to this interview, all of us accept that the passing of the legislation assisted in making the decision. Why did the reporter on <i>AM</i> misrepresent the comments of Mr Keelty?</p> <p>Mr Balding—I will take that on notice, unless Mr Cameron can shed some light on that.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I think that is a very serious situation; could you come back on it.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am prepared to have a look at it, Senator.</p>		
106	151/152	Ronaldson	<p>Terminology in News Reports</p> <p>Can I follow up on a serious matter I raised at estimates last time. I want to follow up on your answer to part 3 of question 125 from the last estimates. My question was, 'Does the ABC acknowledge that it consistently uses a different terminology when referring to the murder of Israeli civilians?' It was stated that it, and I quote the ABC, 'does not accept that it consistently uses a different terminology when referring to the killing of any particular group of citizens'. In the introduction to that question I have provided many concrete examples of ABC journalists referring to attacks on civilians in Indonesia...I provided many examples of ABC journalists referring to attacks on civilians in Indonesia as 'terror', 'terrorism' and 'terrorist attacks' and to those who carry them out as 'terrorists'. I can also provide numerous examples of these terms being used in ABC reports of attacks on civilians in various other locations. The ABC still has different descriptions of those who use mass murder, including suicide bombings for political purposes, depending on where they strike. I will emphasise 'depending on where they strike'. Ian Henderson, introducing a report for the Victorian evening news bulletin on 27 October, referred to 'the Palestinian militant group, Islamic Jihad'. Mark Willacy in his report referred to 'Islamic Jihad, one of the militant groups meant to be observing a truce'. Nowhere in the story was there any mention of 'terror', 'terrorist' or 'terrorism' news. However, in the 10 November edition of the <i>Midday Report</i>, Ros Childs referred to Azahari bin Husin as 'the master bombmaker of terrorist organisation</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>Jemaah Islamiah', and 'the most wanted terrorist in Asia'. There is a constantly inconsistent use of the term 'terrorist'. I am sure the ABC knows which countries are in Asia and which countries are not, so I am not going to make a flippant comment about that. How you cannot describe someone like Osama bin Laden or Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, as a terrorist, while describing someone else operating out of Asia as a terrorist is just beyond me. That night's story on Azahari bin Husin was introduced with a graphic announcing 'Terrorist Trapped'. The following night, Ian Henderson announced, 'More details have emerged about the death of the terrorist Azarahi Husin.'</p> <p>Mr Balding, can the ABC provide examples of ABC journalists using these terms in reports about indiscriminate murderous attacks, including suicide bombings and shootings, by Palestinian groups on civilians in Israel?</p> <p>Mr Balding—Can we provide examples of where we have described them as 'terrorists'?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Yes, or mention of 'terrorism'.</p> <p>Mr Balding—There is nothing precluding the ABC from describing events as a 'terrorist act' or an 'act of terrorism'.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I could not agree more. On behalf of many people, I am complaining that the ABC consistently refuses to call one group of terrorists 'terrorists'.</p> <p>Mr Balding—The ABC journalists are governed by the board's editorial policies, and at the moment those policies are very precise in respect of labelling. We have outlined to this committee before what that policy is.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Regrettably, it is interesting but Mark Willacy on <i>PM</i> on 23 August, in a throwaway line talking about the right wing—I presume they are right wing; I do not know—Kach group, explained, 'Israel banned that movement because it was involved in a bit of terrorism against the Palestinians.' He was quite happy to talk about Kach's activities as 'terrorism' but—</p> <p>Mr Balding—He may have been describing the reason given as to why Israel has banned them.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—That is right, but he used the word 'terrorism'. They constantly do not use it the other way around.</p> <p>Mr Balding—I am more than happy to look at it in its context, but from what you have just said there I get the impression he is ascribing that label and attributing back to Israel the reason why Israel has banned that group. They are not his words.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—No, Israel did not describe them as that; he described them.</p> <p>Mr Balding—Could you quote them again. I am sure Mr Cameron would be interested in this.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—'Israel banned that movement because it was involved in a bit of terrorism against the Palestinians.'</p> <p>Mr Balding—That may have been the reason given by Israel and he is merely reporting why Israel banned them. I am happy to have a look at it in the broader context of</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			the story.		
107	152	Fierraventini-Wells	<p>Terminology You go to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on 21 November. ... and they refer to Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, yet your journalist, barely a day later, refers to them as 'Hezbollah fighters'. That is a classic example of what Senator Ronaldson is saying. I have got more examples here which I am happy to give you where your journalists refer to them as 'militants' and other organisations refer to them clearly as 'terrorists'. Mr Cameron—You can give us these new examples. If they somehow contravene our policies, believe me, our reporters around the world, not just in the Middle East, are fully aware of this perception that is out there and they are very careful because of it. And we are very careful because of it.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
108	152	Ronaldson	<p>Comment by Mark Willacy 23 August 2005 Mr Balding, on 23 August Mark Willacy was talking about the West Bank and made the comment in his report that 'all of the West Bank is regarded under international law as Palestinian territory'. That is simply not right. Under UN Security Council resolution 242, it is still to be finalised by negotiation. There seems to be a clear anti-Israel bias in the reports coming out of the Middle East by ABC reporters. Mr Balding—I do not agree with that but I am more than happy to have a look at each of those examples and provide context and provide this committee with a full answer.</p>	ABC	21/04/06
109	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Digital Funding How much money has the Government invested in digital infrastructure at ABC?</p>	ABC	21/04/06
110	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Analogue Broadcasts How much money does ABC spend on analog broadcasts at present?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
111	Tabled	Conroy	<p>ABC Inventory How many hours of TV broadcast material are in the ABC inventory? How does this compare with 1996?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
112	Tabled	Conroy	<p>AM/PM and The World today At the October Senate Estimates hearing John Cameron gave an undertaking that the ABC would not proceed with changes to the ABC Radio Current Affairs if they lead to a reduction in quality: <i>Senator NASH</i>—Weren't there some editorial concerns though that those programs would not be as good? Wasn't there an editorial concern that the technical support staff was needed for those programs to function as well as possible? <i>Mr John Cameron</i>—Yes, I know what you mean. We are talking about that at the moment. We have said this openly to the staff and will continue to say it: if there is any impact on the quality, we will not be going down that route. I understand that one week after that assurance was given, Gordon Lavery told a meeting of staff that management was proceeding with the change. What examination was undertaken on the impact of the changes on quality?</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>What criteria were applied to determine there would be no impact on quality?</p> <p>Who made the assessment that there would be no impact on quality?</p> <p>Who made the decision to proceed?</p> <p>Is that decision being reviewed?</p>		
113	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>ABC Style Guidelines</p> <p>Both in response to Question 125 from the October/November Estimates last year and in this last round of Estimates you indicated that the ABC Style Guide was up for review.</p> <p>What internal discussion, process or practice led to this review?</p> <p>What were the dates of the last three revisions or reviews of the Style Guide?</p> <p>What processes will the ABC undertake in reviewing the Style Guide?</p> <p>Will there be community consultation as part of the review? If so, on what basis will that consultation be done?</p> <p>Will drafts on the new Style Guide be made available for public comment?</p> <p>Will the new Style Guide be made public immediately on completion?</p> <p>Is there any internal documentation relevant to the use of words such as “terror” terrorism” or “terrorist” in the current or proposed Style Guide? If so, please advise on the nature of such documentation.</p> <p>Will the new Style Guide have the same level of enforcement by ABC management as the current one?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
114	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Breaches of Style Guide</p> <p>Please provide the nature of each breach and resulting disciplinary action that was taken against any particular person in relation to breaches of either the Style Guide or Editorial Policy over the last five years.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
115	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Labelling</p> <p>In your answer to Question 125 from the October/November Estimates, you advised:</p> <p><i>The ABC has no policy that involves labelling certain groups as terrorists and others not. The use of the word “terrorist”, as is the case with the use of any other word, is subject to ABC Editorial Policies and driven by the responsibility to report accurately and fairly. As a general indication, it would be expected that, where the facts of a matter clearly point to it being a terrorist act then it may well be that the word “terrorist” or “terrorism” may be used, particularly where it provides important context and information relevant at the time. However, it is equally possible that the word may not be used, without in any way suggesting that the ABC has somehow made a judgement that the act is not a terrorist act or that the ABC in any way condoned the act. The ABC believes the examples quoted are acceptable uses of language and were not “breaches of the Style Guide”, therefore no disciplinary action was taken.</i></p> <p>At Estimates on Monday 13 February you advised:</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>I could not agree more. On</i></p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p><i>behalf of many people, I am complaining that the ABC consistently refuses to call one group of terrorists 'terrorists'.</i></p> <p>Mr Balding—<i>The ABC journalists are governed by the board's editorial policies, and at the moment those policies are very precise in respect of labelling. We have outlined to this committee before what that policy is.</i></p> <p>Please advise whether the policies relating to the use of the word "terror" in the current Style Guide are merely a "general indication" of usage that a journalist "may" follow as indicated in your first answer or whether they are prescriptive and "precise" as indicated by your second answer. Please provide concrete examples in your response.</p>		
116	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Use of Terrorism</p> <p>In the last few Estimates, Senators Santoro, Fierravanti-Wells and myself have collectively produced hundreds of instances of use of terms such as "terror" terrorism" or "terrorist" to describe organisation, people and events in places such as South East Asia and London. As stated before, I believe this labelling to be correct.</p> <p>We have also provided dozens of examples of organisations such as Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah described merely as "militants" or in terms other than "terror" terrorism" or "terrorist."</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Henderson, introducing a report on the Hadera bombing for the Victorian evening News bulletin on October 27, referred to "the Palestinian militant group, Islamic Jihad". Mark Willacy, in his report, referred to "Islamic Jihad, one of the militant groups meant to be observing a truce". Nowhere in the story was any mention of terror, terrorist or terrorism. • On ABC Radio "AM" (Oct. 7) - Peter Cave announced, "Known for its successful recruitment of suicide bombers, the Palestinian militant group, Hamas" <p>Could you please provide any examples of Islamic Jihad, its actions or its members being described as "terror" terrorism" or "terrorists"</p> <p>Could you please provide any examples of Hezbollah, its actions or its members being described as "terror" terrorism" or "terrorists"</p>	ABC	21/04/06
117	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Labelling</p> <p>The ABC has repeatedly insisted that it does not make any geographical distinction between the labelling of different terrorist groups.</p> <p>Can you analyse your labelling of Islamic Jihad and Jemaah Islamiah and report as to whether you think there is any difference in labelling. Please provide concrete examples in your response.</p>	ABC	21/04/06
118	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Labelling</p> <p>In the 10 November 2005 edition of the Midday Report, Ros Childs referred to Azahari bin Husin as 'the master bomb maker of terrorist organisation Jemaah Islamiah', and 'the most wanted terrorist in Asia'.</p> <p>Does this statement represent a view that:</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, are not terrorists?; or That the Indian Subcontinent is not in Asia?; or That Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi are less "wanted" than Azahari bin Husin 		
119	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>ABC Bias</p> <p>I would like to refer you to a book published by Melbourne University Publishing entitled The Alfred Deakin Debate: Barons to Bloggers Details of title at http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au/catalogue/0-522-85207-6.html</p> <p>This is a book about media power and the nature of news and opinion within the media world. Key contributors include ABC Chairman Donald McDonald, publisher Eric Beecher, political journalist Margo Kingston; and AFR journalist and former editor of the Sun-Herald Andrew Clark.</p> <p>You might note that Donald McDonald has written the preface.</p> <p>The book has reference to an independent study by RMIT, Roy Morgan, and the Reader. The study seeks to determine how journalists view the media in terms of most bias in Australia. In answer to which media outlet is the most biased, 40% said News Ltd, 25% ABC, 12% said Australian, etc.</p> <p>That is to say that 25% of Australian JOURNALISTS think that the ABC is the most biased media outlet in Australia and that as a whole, Australian JOURNALISTS rate the ABC as the second most biased media outlet.</p> <p>How do you respond to the fact that in a survey in a book with a preface by Donald McDonald, journalists think the ABC is the second most biased media organization in the country?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
120	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Diversity</p> <p>I would put it to you that while the ABC may portray a diversity of life styles (e.g. people of different ethnic heritage or sexuality), that there is very little political and social diversity within key areas of ABC programming. Would you acknowledge that by merely taking a view of diversity as being ethnic, gender or sexuality-based that you are in fact creating and politically and socially homogenous culture within the ABC?</p> <p>What measures are in place to ensure a diversity of political views, educational and socio-economic backgrounds?</p> <p>What are you doing to engender actual diversity?</p> <p>How is the ABC confident that it is meeting its obligation of impartiality?</p> <p>Is the ABC asking of itself in a systematic way, 'How are we impartial? How do we treat certain issues?' This needs to occur over the range of programs over time. If so, what processes are in place?</p> <p>Is the ABC asking of itself in a systematic way, 'How can we ensure that we can't be accused of bias in such circumstances? Would a disinterested observer think that the ABC takes one editorial position or another over a</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			range of programs over time?' If so, what processes are in place?		
121	Tabled	Ronaldson	Labelling What is the basis on which 'experts' are chosen to speak on the ABC? How is this done? Are there lists kept? Do they tend to take views like those of the producers and presenters who have chosen them to be informative?	ABC	06/04/06
122	Tabled	Ronaldson	Article on ABC Bias I refer you to the following: On 24 January 2006, The Age: "Why we need a 'biased' ABC The ABC has survived despite the appointments of several inadequate general managers - and despite Government bias against it. The organisation can still hold its own in terms of its brilliant current affairs and good news services even though it is underfunded and criticised. It's a wonder that with a Liberal-biased board of directors that it has the latitude to report freely at all. Governments continually condemn the ABC's left-wing bias and yet without the ABC there would be little account for the Government's decisions. It is necessary and essential for the ABC to always be left of centre - whichever Government is in power. To be completely "unbiased" and not be opinionated is to be weak in my terms. The people of Australia need the ABC and all its multi-functions, and it is a sad reflection that perhaps the ABC is not getting the general managers it deserves. For all his "calming" influence, Russell Balding was not the right man for the job. He is an accountant, a numbers man, and accountants should not be at the head of an expansive, free-thinking organisation. We need men of vision as managing directors, inspired leaders with a grand vision of where the ABC ought to stand in our society. These days, in particular, when the Liberal Party has a free hand to make terrible blunders, we need an unshackled ABC with enough funds to keep us freely informed. Gordon Bick (former ABC Four Corners producer), Rosebud" Monday, 13 February 2006, ECITA Pg. 135 <i>Senator RONALDSON—It was probably an unreasonable question to ask you and I will just state the obvious, that it seems a bit surprising. Is Gordon Bick known to any of those at the table, former producer of Four Corners?</i> <i>Mr Cameron—Before my time in news and current affairs terms.</i> Monday, 13 February 2006, ECITA Pg. 137 <i>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I will be coming to that as well. Senator Ronaldson mentioned Gordon Bick. This journalist was employed in a senior role on a flagship current affairs program. He has clearly got a</i>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p><i>left-wing propagandist view of journalism. Surely, having had an admission by somebody so senior, you cannot sit here and deny that there is no left-wing bias in your organisation.</i></p> <p>Mr Balding—<i>Senator, I do not even know the gentleman. It was well before my time; I believe he was employed some time ago. You would be surprised to know, with respect to a number of people who used to work for the ABC, that whenever they write something, they always say ‘former ABC journalist’ or ‘former ABC producer’; they do not say what they are currently doing or what they have done over the last three to five years. Everyone is entitled to their views and opinions. I do not accept that gentleman’s opinions as outlined here tonight. As I have outlined to this committee on a number of occasions, I am definitely of the view that the ABC is not biased. We have a number of processes and procedures in place to put any of those issues on check. There are times—</i></p> <p>Monday, 13 February 2006, ECITA Pg. 150</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>Some restless soul and insomniac has emailed me and said that Mr Bick worked with the ABC from 1971 until 2001. Have you all collectively dropped him or does someone remember him? I am not going to ask you any questions about it, but someone must remember somebody who worked at the ABC for 30 years and was executive producer of Four Corners.</i></p> <p>Mr Cameron—<i>No, he was not described as the executive producer.</i></p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>Whatever I have described him as.</i></p> <p>Mr Cameron—<i>As a producer.</i></p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>Former producer of Four Corners.</i></p> <p>Mr Cameron—<i>A producer. Forgive me, Mr Bick, whoever you are, because I have been there for 22 years and I do not know him.</i></p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—<i>I think we have got one bitterly disappointed Mr Bick listening to this.</i></p> <p><u>”The ABC of how not to win friends</u> Gerard Henderson, executive director of the Sydney Institute. 7 February 2006, <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i></p> <p>If Russell Balding is after more funding, he has a funny way of going about it.</p> <p>THE ABC's short march to Canberra in search of extra funding is on again. Last week the public broadcaster released its triennial funding submission to the Federal Government for 2006-09.</p> <p>The ABC wants an extra \$38.4 million over three years. It also hopes the Government will respond favourably to any recommendation for extra money that might be in the Funding Adequacy and Efficiency Review, being undertaken by the consultant KPMG. The ABC's</p>		

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			<p>managing director, Russell Balding, is on record as declaring he is "relatively optimistic" the ABC will get more funding "out of the two reviews".</p> <p>Last June Balding delivered a speech in which he said that "over the course of 17 years and five triennial funding submissions, the ABC has been repeatedly knocked back". He added that "you could be forgiven for thinking that a telephone in the hands of Russell Crowe gets better treatment than an ABC triennial funding submission". Balding was critical of the attitude to the public broadcaster "of both major parties", specifically the Hawke government, the Keating government and the Howard Government.</p> <p>Balding seemed to rejoice in the fact that "politicians are not always overburdened with love and affection for the ABC". He asked the self-serving question: "How could we possibly be politically biased when we have managed to offend every prime minister since 1932?"</p> <p>Conveniently, the answer was provided recently by Gordon Bick, a former ABC TV Four Corners producer. In a recent letter to The Age, Bick wrote: "Governments continually condemn the ABC's left-wing bias and yet without the ABC there would be little account for the Government's decisions. It is necessary and essential for the ABC to be always left of centre - whichever government is in power."</p> <p>In other words, many ABC presenters and producers criticise Labor and the Coalition from the left. Yet Balding, the ABC's editor-in-chief, seems to believe such a scenario represents balance. It doesn't. Bob Hawke and Paul Keating understood in their day that the ABC was imbued with a fashionable leftism, of the kind found in many humanities faculties, that is critical of social democrats (i.e., Labor) and political conservatives (i.e., the Coalition) alike. John Howard and Peter Costello recognise the same problem, albeit from a different perspective.</p> <p>Contrary to the implication in Balding's speech, the fact that the ABC's funding requests have been rejected by Labor and the Coalition is an indication not of balance but, rather, of stark management failure. This time around, Balding's announcement of the ABC's submission was preceded by the news he will quit by the end of March, some time before his contract expires. In view of the strong emphasis Balding has placed on the dire necessity of the ABC getting extra money, this seems like an undignified cop-out. Decisions about ABC future funding are expected in the May budget.</p> <p>The only managing director who will have succeeded in the job is the one who can deliver new funding for important and balanced programming. Balding will depart without achieving such an aim. I understand that during his tenure as managing director, he has not had an official meeting with Costello. Yet the Treasurer meets key figures in the community regularly.</p> <p>Balding's office will not answer the question as to</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>whether he has made personal representations to Costello. Just imagine what Kerry O'Brien would say if, on The 7.30 Report, a politician failed to answer such a straightforward inquiry. As those involved in the political process recognise, it is hard to get a favourable outcome if the Treasurer and Prime Minister are not onside.</p> <p>The criticisms made of the ABC by successive governments have been reasonable. Take the Howard Government, for example. The likes of Howard and Costello believe that there should be greater political balance among ABC presenters and producers. Also, the Government wants the ABC to introduce a better complaints procedure. Both requests, if implemented, would lead to an improvement in the ABC. However, both have been resisted by management.</p> <p>Indeed, senior ABC players seem to have consciously decided to take on the Government. Consider the case of satirist Guy Rundle, an editor of the leftist Arena Magazine. In 2001 Rundle wrote a Quarterly Essay piece titled "The Opportunist: John Howard and the Triumph of Reaction" in which he not only bagged the Prime Minister but attacked Labor as well, declaring that "the forces of reaction now stretch from media magnates and redneck populists to Kim Beazley and John Faulkner".</p> <p>So what happened to Rundle? Well, last year he was appointed executive producer of ABC Arts. That's what. Maybe the powers that be at the ABC decided they needed yet more leftists on its payroll.</p> <p>It's much the same with the ABC's complaints procedure. In a long-drawn-out process, the former communications minister Richard Alston had a number of his complaints against the ABC Radio AM program upheld by the Independent Complaints Review Panel and the Australian Broadcasting Authority. Rather than accept the umpire's decisions, the findings of both bodies were attacked on ABC TV's Media Watch program. Despite his role as editor-in-chief, Balding did nothing as the public broadcaster's existing complaints procedures were publicly bagged by his own staff.</p> <p>Yet the soon-to-resign Balding expects that his advisers and maybe his replacement (who will be decided by the ABC board in the only really significant decision it ever makes) will roll up in Canberra and receive a large load of extra money. Well, it might work. But it hasn't in the past. The ABC is most likely to receive the funding it needs after, and if, it reforms itself."</p> <p>"The Editor West Australian</p> <p>Dear Editor</p> <p>Gerard Henderson says (7/2/06) "...the Government wants the ABC to introduce a better complaints procedure..." and that this necessary reform has been</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>"...resisted by management...". This is nonsense.</p> <p>Four years ago the ABC Board and management implemented a series of reforms to its corporate governance processes including significant enhancements to the ABC's complaints handling system. We took complaints handling away from the program makers and established ABC Audience and Consumer Affairs and a separate Complaints Review Executive. In mid 2005 we reformed the Independent Complaints Review Panel. The ABC's complaints handling system is without peer within the Australian media industry.</p> <p>I am not sure what regular contact Mr Henderson has with senior figures in the Federal Government but he is wrong about their attitude to the very substantial and effective complaints handling reforms instituted by the ABC.</p> <p>Mr Henderson takes almost 1000 words to demean the ABC and its Triennial Funding Submission to Government. Not one word was devoted to the substance of the submission, which calls for increased resources in order to position the ABC to meet the challenges of the digital age, expand regional services, and improve levels of Australian content on television.</p> <p>Contrary to Mr Henderson's assertions, the ABC has secured additional funding from the Government in recent years, including: an additional \$4.2million per annum for television acquisitions; the renewal of the National Interest Initiatives program costing \$18 million per annum and the renewal of the ABC's Asia Pacific international television service contract.</p> <p>I remain confident that the Government will give serious consideration to the ABC's funding submission and assess it on its merits.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Russell Balding Managing Director"</p> <p>In light of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Mr Bick's letter . Mr Henderson's article citing Mr Bick . Mr Balding's response to Mr Henderson's article . References to Mr Bick at Estimates <p>Can you please advise:</p> <p>What positions were held by Mr Bick at the ABC over which years? What positions were held by Mr Cameron at the ABC over which years? How it was that Mr Balding and Mr Cameron were unaware of Mr Bick, even though Mr Balding had written a letter to West Australian refuting an article by Mr Henderson which quoted Mr Bick only days beforehand? Do Mr Bick's views reflect the standard approach and thinking among News and Current Affairs staff at the</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			ABC? If not, what steps are management taking to make it clear that Mr. Bick's stated approach is not acceptable?		
123	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Breaches of the style guide - Use of "our"</p> <p>I note that the ABC has conceded, contrary to numerous prior denials, that staff breached the style guide rule and various management directives on the use of "our", as in "our troops in Iraq", almost 500 times in 2 ½ years. Do you agree that these breaches can no longer be dismissed as "occasional"?</p> <p>Regarding the "our" rule and in light of a further 20 examples of breaches, I have uncovered SINCE the last hearing (Attachment 1). What action has been taken to enforce this rule, or does the ABC only bother when the issue at stake is Australian involvement in Iraq?</p> <p>Will Rebecca Carmody and Kirrin McKechnie who were multiple offenders previously, again be reminded of the style guide?</p> <p>Will the ABC clarify the following answer for November Questions on Notice: "Was Mr Dempster spoken to about his multiple breaches of the 'our' rule before 21 October 2005. When he again breached the rule on 21 October, what action was taken? Alternatively, if no action was taken, why not, given Mr Cameron's earlier dire warnings about disciplinary action for repeated breaches?"</p>	ABC	20/04/06
124	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Breaches of the style guide - Use of "we"</p> <p>If the expression "our troops in Iraq" is banned then why is it OK for Tony Jones on <i>Lateline</i> (14 February 2006) to use the following expression in respect of the lack of Australian casualties in Iraq: "We haven't taken casualties in the same way"?</p> <p>The "we" clearly refers to Australian troops (Attachment 2). Why is "our" banned but "we" is OK?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
125	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Breaches of the style guide - Use of "more than"</p> <p>In relation to your rules on protest rallies, I understand the ABC has a rule about not using "more than" to describe the size of protests. I note from your own style guide that it makes it sound like the ABC is impressed, or not, with the size.</p> <p>And yet in your reply to questions of notice following the November 2005 estimates, you have misrepresented your own rules. The style guide is clear. If there are 150 people at a rally, and the reporter thinks there are "more than 100", I understand the appropriate course is to say "about 150."</p> <p>In relation to your answer to question 34, you said: <i>"the use requires an analysis of whether the reporter had good reason to believe it really was more than the number mentioned and in the absence of evidence to the contrary you accept that was the case."</i></p> <p>In other words, the reporter had good reason to believe the number really was more than what was mentioned.</p> <p>In the report by Eleanor Hall in Texas with "more than 100 anti-war protesters?" Unless Ms Hall counted the protesters, this appears to be a breach of the "more than" rule.</p> <p>Was Hamish Robertson in Baghdad with "more than 100</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>human shields?" Unless Mr Robertson counted the protesters, this appears to be a breach of the "more than" rule.</p> <p>Now, why did Andrew Geoghan on <i>The World Today</i> of December 14, 2005 state "More than two thousand protestors are targeting this meeting in Hong Kong"? How was he able to make this prediction? This appears to be a breach of the "more than" rule.</p> <p>Why did <i>News Online</i> on 5 November 2005 state: "More than one thousand people have gathered in Sydney to mark the start of a weekend of protests across Australia against the Federal Government's counter-terrorism laws."?</p>		
126	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Breaches of the style guide—"rumour" rule</p> <p>I note from your news style guide that: "In news reports we do not fuel rumours". Then why did <i>News Online</i> produce this report on 13 January 2006 that "Unions are concerned about ongoing rumours Qantas jobs could be shifted offshore." This appears to be a breach of the "rumours" rule. Could you explain your rule here?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
127	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Use of first names</p> <p>I note the ABC has conceded that various first name references to people like the causes celebre of immigration activists and David Hicks should not have been made. I note the ABC style guide states that such usage can create the impression the ABC sympathises with the person or issue.</p> <p>I note the ABC concedes that there have been examples of people referred to by their first name for reasons of confidentiality but that reason should be disclosed. You have previously been asked about numerous breaches of your rule about your reporters not being on first name terms with people in your news reports. Please explain why Alison Caldwell on <i>AM</i> on 23 December 23 2005 referred to the latest cause celebre of immigration activists, a Mr Robert Jovicic, as "Robert" in contravention of your rules?</p> <p>This is the same Alison Caldwell who referred to American activist Scott Parkin as "Scott". Has Ms Caldwell been made aware of the rule? Does she understand its applicability? Was she spoken to after the last questions?</p> <p>Does the ABC news department sympathise with Mr Parkin and Mr Jovicic?</p> <p>On 20 January 2006 on <i>PM</i>, why did Indonesia correspondent Tim Palmer refer to Schapelle Corby as Schapelle? Has the ABC taken sides with Ms Corby?</p>	ABC	20/04/06
128	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Anti-Christian comments – The Glass House</p> <p>I note the ABC acknowledges offensive anti-Christian comments were made on <i>The Glass House</i>. Does the ABC accept that these comments have been regarded by some viewers as offensive?</p> <p>How do these comments conform to Editorial Polices regarding offensive comments on the basis of religion?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
129	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Anti-Christian comments</p> <p>Will the ABC provide a proper answer to question 69 on notice from November 2005 Estimates? How do offensive comments about the Pope, Catholics and Christians in</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			general, conform to ABC Editorial Policies?		
130	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Anti-Christian comments – Triple J Why did the Triple J show <i>Today Today</i> on 25 February 2005 make disgraceful comments about the stooping posture of The Pope? What action was taken? On 1 April 2005 Triple J made highly offensive comments about the last days of The Pope. Why? What action has been taken?	ABC	20/04/06
131	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Anti-Christian comments Radio National Why did the presenter of <i>The Religion Report</i> , on 6 April 2005, make derogatory comments about the late Pope and was any action taken? Regarding your answer to question 75 about anti-Christian comments on the Radio National programme <i>Perspective</i> . Mr James Bourne made very harsh comments yet you defend them as “his opinion”. Would you commission someone to make harsh comments about Muslims?	ABC	20/04/06
132	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Anti-Government bias I note the ABC has not denied that a string of commentators on <i>Perspective</i> made a range of anti-government comments. During the Estimates hearing on 13 February 2006, I made references to a series of instances of anti-Government bias across a range of areas. Following are questions which relate generally to anti-Government bias, including attachments of some documents referred to at the hearing. IR legislation Attachment 3 includes various documents referred to at the 13 February hearing. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same. When Alison Caldwell interviewed Greg Combet from the ACTU on <i>AM</i> on 7 February 2006, why did she give him a massive free kick and why has no subsequent balance been provided?	ABC	20/04/06
133	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Australian Constitution Attachment 4 includes various documents referred to at the 13 February hearing. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.	ABC	20/04/06
134	Tabled x-ref 148	Fierravanti-Wells	Comments by Mr Aedy and Mr Barker Attachment 5 is a <i>Media Report</i> interview of 6 October 2005 referred to at the 13 February hearing. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.	ABC	20/04/06
135	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Comments re Mr Habib Attachment 6 is a complaint and finding relating to <i>The Midday News and Business</i> of 12 January 2005 referred to at the 13 February hearing. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.	ABC	20/04/06
136	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Negative view of Prime Minister Did Fran Kelly on <i>Radio National Breakfast</i> of 7 February 2006 say to a programme guest talking about the Prime	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			Minister's views on history "do you see anything sinister in Howard's views?" Is the ABC again inviting people to form a negative view of the PM?		
137	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Statement by Dr Mahatir on ABC News Online Attachment 7 refers to a report on <i>ABC News Online</i> of 2 February 2005, a statement was made that Doctor Mahatir had branded Australia as deputy sheriff to the US. There was a complaint about this and you replied in the following way: "The ABC agreed that John Howard himself first used those words." When and where is it alleged that Prime Minister Howard used those words? Please provide documents to evidence this claim? <i>The Hansard</i> record of 27 September 1999 cites Mr Howard as referring to the article in the <i>Bulletin</i> magazine where the quote first appeared. Mr Howard stated: "I make it clear that the government does not see Australia as playing the role of a deputy for the United States or indeed any other country in the region". Furthermore, he stated: "That expression was used in the interview by the correspondent himself."	ABC	20/04/06
138	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Comments on Daylight Saving On his programme of 6 November 2005 Ian McNamara was discussing daylight saving or the lack of it in Queensland and he made the following comment (according to a transcript you provided): "John Howard jumped on the bandwagon coz his little minders have been sniffing the wind and saw a poll which said 52 percent of Queenslanders want daylight saving." How does Mr McNamara know this, given that he asserted it as a fact?	ABC	20/04/06
139	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Statement by Prime Minister Why did a presenter on Brisbane radio on 2 March 2005 state the following: "Prime Minister John Howard broke his election promise that interest rates would not rise under a Coalition government." When and where is it alleged that Prime Minister Howard used those words? Please provide documents to evidence this claim?	ABC	06/04/06
140	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Comments on ABC Radio North Coast Why did a presenter on <i>ABC Radio North Coast Mornings</i> make the following comment on 28 September 2004: "Perhaps more worrying, as the campaign has focussed so much on the two leaders, John Howard has further edged ahead as preferred Prime Minister." At the November Estimates hearing, Mr Cameron that he would have to take on notice whether the ABC needs to get rid of the Coalition Government. Is it the official position of the ABC to be worried if Mr Howard is ahead in polls?	ABC	06/04/06
141	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Comments on ABC TV News Why did <i>ABC TV News</i> on 27 April 2005, report that former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser had criticised the Liberal Party for lack of action on National Sorry Day, when he also equally criticised the Labor Party. Why was just the criticism of the Liberal Party reported? Isn't this more ABC bias?	ABC	21/04/06
142	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Reference to "draconian" In light of warnings to reporter Daniel Hoare about	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>inappropriate language on air, will he again be counselled about presenting an opinion, that the Government's counter-terrorism laws are "draconian", as a fact? Shouldn't he have said "what they call draconian"? (Attachment 8).</p> <p>Attachment 9 is an extract from a <i>Lateline</i> interview of 27 October 2005 referred to at the 13 February hearing in which Tony Jones refers to "draconian secrecy provisions" as a fact. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.</p>		
143	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments on Triple J – Lindsay McDougall</p> <p>The ABC was asked quite specifically whether you were comfortable with the fact that the morning Triple J broadcaster Lindsay McDougall had been hired even though he had a very strong publicly stated agenda to get rid of this government. Could we have a specific answer? You were also asked a very specific question about whether Mr McDougall nominated the Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone as the "Friday F...wit". Your answer "she has been a nominee" was inadequate response to the specific question. You were not asked whether "she had been a nominee"- you were asked a specific question about Mr McDougall. Could we have some specific answers to specific questions? Was there a tape of this incident? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of? In the absence of a tape, have you spoken to Mr McDougall about the incident? If so, what was the nature of those discussions?</p>	ABC	20/04/06
144	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Australian Story – Scott Rush</p> <p>In relation to <i>Australian Story</i> on 12 February 2006 regarding Scott Rush, why did the ABC present a story which portrayed the Australian Federal Police and the Howard Government in a bad light in respect of the drug runner Scott Rush, and not reveal his extensive criminal background?</p> <p>There is no doubt that had the ABC, in line with its editorial policies referring to "disclosing material that would affect the audience perception", revealed Mr Rush's extensive drug-related criminal history from the age of 16, the audience perception of the activities of the AFP and the Government would have been different? Is the reason for non-disclosure because Scott Rush was being sentenced the next day, a report of which was contained in other news items (Attachment 10) If so, why did the ABC fail run the story a week later and divulge his criminal background? Is the role of <i>Australian Story</i> to present criminals in a soft light and hide their criminal background in such a way as it reflects badly on the Howard Government?</p>	ABC	21/04/06
145	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments about the National Party</p> <p>Will the ABC apologise for the acknowledged comments by <i>Canberra Radio Drive</i> presenter Rod Quinn, who interviewed the Federal Director of the National Party and asked about how the party has changed its name to "The</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			Nationals” and some people shorten it to “The Nats” and Mr Quinn said “It’s just as well you’re not still called the Country Party.”		
146	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Anti-US bias Previous questions refer to anti-US bias, including inappropriate comments against Mr Bush which the ABC simply puts down to opinion. Did Stephen Crittenden send an email on 16 December 2005 replying to someone who complained about an on-air comment about the “current dark days in the White House”?	ABC	20/04/06
147	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ACT Liberal Opposition Did Ross Solly on <i>ABC Radio Canberra 666</i> on Thursday, 9 February 2006, in an item about the ACT Liberal Opposition (8.35am approx.) state: “Are they fit to govern?” Please provide the transcript. Isn’t this a biased comment?	ABC	20/04/06
148	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ABC Staff re-training I note previous ABC answers which tried to blame the number of breaches of editorial policies and style guides on casualisation and staff turnover. I note Senator Santoro showed that most breaches were committed by senior or long-standing staff. In the Estimates hearing on 13 February 2006 I note that the ABC now says it needs to institute further training for long-term staff to address this problem. Could the ABC provide full details of this training, including proposed staff coverage, nature and content of the training?	ABC	20/04/06
149	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Interview re RU486 On <i>Stateline Victoria</i> on 10 February 2006, why did compere Kathy Bowlen cut off debate about whether the issue of the abortion drug RU486 was a matter of policy, as asserted by various politicians by stating: “I don’t want to spend all the time debating yes it’s a policy or no it’s a policy”?	ABC	20/04/06
150	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ABC Policy regarding labelling and terrorist groups Please provide clarification of your policy on labelling and terrorist groups including a “history” of the various phases of this policy which I have sought to summarise in various paragraphs below. Firstly, you had the rule that “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter”. This would infer the unpalatable conclusion that the butchers of Beslan, Bali, September 11, Madrid and London would be regarded as freedom fighters. Secondly, you appeared to have a policy of only calling people terrorists if they were on a UN list of terrorist groups. Senator Santoro examined this policy at the May 2005 Senate Estimates when he showed how there had been dozens of examples of your journalists referring to at least 20 different groups as terrorist organisations even though they were not on any list - November 17, the IRA, the Japanese Red Army, Carlos the Jackal, the list goes on - but the only time your news management did anything about it was when a journalist referred to Hamas or Hezbollah as terrorist groups. Subsequently, management appears to have followed that	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>up with a memo by Mr Tulloh banning the practice. I understand Mr Tulloh's memo only ever referred to Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad.</p> <p>I do not believe the ABC has given a clear answer for this. You were asked detailed questions with very specific examples. Your response was simply that the UN list was not exhaustive and the ABC did not use it in a definitive way. Please advise how the ABC did use the UN list?</p> <p>In practical terms, is your policy intended to allow journalists to call 20 different terrorist groups terrorists dozens of times and do nothing except when it comes to Hamas and Hezbollah?</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the ABC has denied all this and stated in the most recent answers to Questions on Notice: "The question is based on a false premise that the ABC has a policy that involves labelling certain groups as terrorists and others not."</p> <p>Please confirm that Mr Tulloh issued the memo about not referring to Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad as terrorist organisations?</p> <p>Did he issue memos about any other groups – Al Qaeda for instance, or J-I or any other group?</p> <p>Is there a policy that involves labelling certain groups and not others?</p> <p>Did Mr Cameron issue a memo to staff in June 2005 that stated "the ABC takes care not to label groups as terrorist organisations?"</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, please clarify what appears to be your third policy in as many years, namely Rule 6.14 – labelling. I understand the relevant section is 6.14.4 which states: "Where labels have been ascribed to an individual or group by a third party, this will be made clear within the broadcast."</p> <p>In a letter to Minister Downer you attempted to claim that the policy also included "and when the ABC chooses to use them". Does this not contradict the policy that was agreed to be the ABC Board?</p> <p>Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response including details as to what actually was your policy, the dates in which the various phases had applicability and a clear delineation of what your policy is now?</p>		
151	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Adopting language of terrorists</p> <p>On <i>Lateline</i> of 14 February 2006, in a report on attacks against US soldiers in Iraq, according to the ABC transcript of the item, did reporter Stephen McDonnell state the following: "You see the bodies of martyrs who've died for the cause" (Attachment 10)</p> <p>Is it the position of ABC journalists that insurgents and terrorists attacking coalition forces, Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi and other civilians in Iraq, are "martyrs"?</p> <p>Why is the ABC adopting the language of the terrorists?</p> <p>Why did the ABC show this gratuitous footage of soldiers being shot dead? How did this expand our understanding of the story?</p> <p>When did it become ABC policy to broadcast footage of people being shot dead?</p>	ABC	20/04/06
152	Tabled	Fierravanti-	Examples of breaches of labelling policy	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
		Wells	<p>I note a possible example of the application of the rule. Alison Caldwell on <i>The World Today</i> on 5 July 2005: "The US maintains it struck a valid target, and that enemy terrorists were among those killed." Does this not demonstrate how the rule is supposed to work?</p> <p>And you have conceded that on a number of occasions your reporters refer to "terrorist groups", even when there is no attribution. Peter Lloyd on <i>PM</i> on the 13 June 2005, after the new rule had taken effect: "Local terror groups the M-I-L-F and Abu Sayyaf". Is this not a breach of the rule?</p> <p>Michael Dodd in London after the bombings, "the terrorists". Is this not a breach of the rule?</p> <p>Peter Lloyd again on <i>Correspondents Report</i> on 13 July 2005, "regional terror group Jemaah Islamiya". No attribution was given. Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>A further example is Matt Brown on 19 June 2005: "During a visit to the West Bank Condoleezza Rice urged Palestinian President Abbas to do more to stop <u>militants</u> from attacking Israeli targets." But according to the US State Department transcript of the joint press conference with Mr Abbas, Dr Rice said "Much more needs to be done, particularly to use actively the security forces to combat lawlessness and to combat <u>terrorism</u>." There was not one mention of militants. Is this another breach of your rule?</p> <p>Hamish Robertson on <i>Correspondents Report</i> on 17 July 2005: "Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who's demanding that the Palestinian leader crack down hard on the <u>militant groups</u>." On the other hand, the Israeli government actually said "President Abbas and other PA officials are unwilling to confront the <u>terrorist organisations</u>." Is this not a clear breach of your rule?</p> <p><i>ABC News</i> on <i>Radio National</i> in Canberra on 6 September 2005: "Israel described it as a work accident involving the home of a militant." (Attachment 12) Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>When <i>ABC Online</i> ran a story from the Middle East on 20 September 2005, they quoted the Israeli Defence Minister talking about militants when he had referred to terrorists. Even <i>Al Jazeera</i> referred to terrorists in its coverage of the story, as did <i>The Independent</i> and two of the most left-wing newspapers in the US, the <i>New York Times</i> and the <i>Washington Post</i> so why could the ABC not bring itself to do so? Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Michael Rowland on <i>The World Today</i> on 28 September 2005, "the terror group". Is this another example of a breach of your rule? Your position is contradictory when the terrorists are Hamas or Hezbollah and the third party is Israel? According to your rule just quoted, if the Israeli Government refers to terrorists, why should the ABC not do so?</p> <p>Attachment 13 is from <i>ABC Online</i> on 14 November 2005 which states: "Israeli policemen shot dead a member of the Hamas militant group, the Israeli army said". Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p><i>ABC TV's Middy Report</i> of 23 November 2005: "Israel</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>says it killed four Hizbollah "fighters". But according to the transcript from the Israeli government website (which appears to refer to the same incident of the killing of 4 terrorists) it states "We know of four terrorists who were killed." (Attachment 14 includes both items) Is this another clear example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Eleanor Hall and Mark Willacy on <i>The World Today</i> on 6 December 2005: "Ordered the resumption of targeted killings of militants." Yet the day before in an article in the <i>Jerusalem Post</i> of 5 December 2005, Mr Mofaz referred to an order "to target Islamic Jihad terrorists". (Attachment 15 includes both items) Why did you ignore this clear description on the same issue? Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p><i>ABC News Online</i> on 6 December 2005: "Israeli defence Minister Shaul Mofaz gave a green light for the army to carry out targeted killings of Islamic Jihad activists, military radio said." (Attachment 16) Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Maxine McKew on the <i>7.30 Report</i> of 2 January 2006: "The Israeli military has launched a series of attacks on Gaza in what it says is an attempt to stop Palestinian militants from firing rockets into Israeli territory." In contrast, the Israeli military referred five times to terror cell or terrorists in a media release of 2 January 2006 in what appears to refer to the same issue. Why then did the ABC refer to militants? (Attachment 17)</p> <p>Tony Eastley for the umpteenth time on <i>AM</i> on 4 January 2006: "The Israeli military says the purpose of its shelling is to destroy militant bases." (Attachment 18) Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>More from <i>News Online</i> from 17 January 2006: "Israeli troops have killed a senior Palestinian militant, witnesses and the army say" And further: "An Israeli Army spokeswoman says the militant was killed..." But Israel actually refers to terrorists, and never refers to "militants". (Attachment 19) Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Is <i>ABC News Online</i> content, sourced from organisation such as AFP and Reuters, bound by ABC editorial policies?</p>		
153	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Double Standards</p> <p>A further example of double standard is when ABC Middle East correspondent, Matt Brown, profiled a Jewish extremist group and interviewed one of its leaders (<i>The 7.30 Report</i> of 3 August 2005). He describes it as, "a radical Jewish movement branded a terrorist organisation by the US Government". Contrast this with the report of ABC Middle East colleague Mark Willacy when he profiled the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad and interviews one of its leaders - not only does he not declare that the US Government has also branded Islamic Jihad a terrorist organisation, but the word "terrorist" does not appear anywhere in his story. Furthermore, Mr Willacy also fails to tell his ABC audience about all the innocent people Islamic Jihad has murdered. In his report he never once mentioned that the group has killed people. Is this not application of a double standard?</p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>On the other hand, when the terrorist is a Jew the ABC does not hesitate in correctly quoting Mr Sharon. I refer to Eleanor Hall on the 18 August 2005: "Ariel Sharon has condemned the shooting as an act of Jewish terrorism." Mark Willacy did the same on <i>AM</i> on 5 August 2005. Are these not examples of clear applications of a double standard?</p> <p>In relation to when the terrorism occurs elsewhere in the world, different standards are applied. <i>News Online</i> from 1 November 2005 states: "He demanded Pakistan act against terrorism directed at India". (Attachment 20) Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Catherine McGrath on <i>AM</i> from 10 November 2005: "...the news from Indonesia this morning that wanted terrorist Azahari has been cornered by police." No attribution is given yet the subject of the report is referred to as a terrorist. Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p> <p>Referring now to Matt Brown's report for <i>AM</i> on 14 November 2005, about the bomb attacks on the hotel in Jordan. Speaking of the woman suicide bomber who survived when her bomb failed to detonate, Matt Brown refers to her as "this unassuming woman". The dictionary defines unassuming as "not arrogant". Can you think of a more arrogant act than trying to murder a wedding party for no reason? She has just tried to kill dozens of innocent civilians and to the ABC reporter she is "unassuming". Do you think that was an appropriate description?</p> <p>Following previous Estimates, the ABC was provided with a specific and quite detailed question which related to a previous answer from May 2005, when you justified calling J-I a terrorist organisation even though it was not on the UN list, because of its known links to Al Qaeda. You were asked what information various named reporters had about those links when they did that. Please provide a more detailed and informed response.</p> <p>You were also given quite detailed information linking Al Qaeda and Hezbollah, and were asked in light of that, why the ABC did not allow Hezbollah to be referred to as a terrorist organisation. Given the detailed analysis undertaken in relation to that question, your answer: "See answer to Question 61" is both dismissive and totally inappropriate. Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response.</p>		
154	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments regarding London bombings</p> <p>The ABC was also asked about comments made by your new head editorial coordinator Alan Sunderland on <i>The Media Report</i> when he attempted to explain your new terrorism labelling policy.</p> <p>The ABC was asked how journalists could follow Mr Sunderland's explanation that journalists should refer to "suicide bombers" instead of terrorists, and how that could have been applied in the bombing on the London bus when it was not known for four days whether the killer was a suicide bomber or not. Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
155	Tabled	Fierravanti-	Failure to provide documents sought - Beslan	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
		Wells	<p>The ABC was asked to provide the translation of a claim that a Beslan survivor referred to “militants” instead of terrorists. Your response was that “the transcripts are not available.” Was there a tape of this report? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of? Did you ask the reporter Emma Griffiths about this? Surely as a professional journalist she would have kept notes or tapes of such an important conversation? Please provide further details.</p> <p>In a report by Emma Griffiths on <i>AM</i> on 29 December 2005, she quotes the author of a report on security failings, Alexander Torshin, as referring to “militants”. Your transcript states:</p> <p>“The militants’ camp” and “The militants weren’t exactly hiding”.</p> <p>In other versions of that story, Mr Torshin is quoted as referring to “terrorists”. (Attachment 21 includes both items).</p> <p>Is there a tape of this report? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of? In the absence of a tape, have you spoken to Ms Griffiths about her comment? If so, what was the nature of those discussions?</p>		
156	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Description of terrorism – demonstrably acts of terrorism</p> <p>Can the ABC clarify remarks by Mr Cameron at the February 2006 Estimates, that the ABC will call terrorists "terrorists", if “they are demonstrably acts of terrorism”. Is this a new ABC policy?</p> <p>Where in the ABC Editorial Policies is this policy to be found?</p> <p>How will you decide what is “demonstrably an act of terrorism”? What circumstances will be required to be evident for the ABC to categorise a particular act as one that is “demonstrably” an act of terrorism?</p> <p>Do you agree that suicide bomb attacks on civilian targets in Israel, like cafes and buses, are “demonstrably acts of terrorism?”</p>	ABC	21/04/06
157	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>Hizbollah and Al Manar TV</i></p> <p>In a previous Estimates question you were asked why a man from Al-Manar TV in Lebanon was interviewed about Hizbollah but it was not disclosed that Al-Manar is owned and operated by Hizbollah. You responded that this was claim was disputed and hence, no disclosure was required. You were asked this question and avoided it by saying it was not relevant.</p> <p>Why did your broadcaster Geraldine Doogue not take the opportunity to simply ask the man from Al Manar the question about the connection? I remind you of your own charter of editorial practice “does not require journalists to be unquestioning.” Why so unquestioning on this occasion?</p> <p>Attachment 22 is a document from the Middle East Media Research Institute which provide useful information on the link between Al-Manar and Hizbollah including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Al-Manar TV News Director Hassan Fadallah is 	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>a Lebanese MP representing the Hizbollah party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Senior Al-Manar journalist Fatima Bari said in an interview to Islam online “Al-Manar is the channel of resistance and liberation.” • On 10 September 2003 the London Arabic daily Al Sharq Al Awsat wrote “Al Manar TV which belongs to Hizbollah” • On 14 May 2005 the Saudi daily <i>Al Riyadh</i> wrote “Al-Manar TV, which belongs to Hizbollah” • On 21 November 2005 Al Jazeera TV reported “The Al-Manar TV station, speaking in the name of Hizbollah” • A French report in <i>Le Monde</i> of 7 December 2005: “Al-Manar, the Lebanese shi’ite Hizbollah satellite TV” • AFP from 7 December 2004: “Al-Manar the mouthpiece of Hizbollah” • France’s Higher Audio Visual Council of 14 January 2004 and 30 November 2005 referred to Al-Manar as the Hizbollah channel.” <p>Arguably, even a cursory internet search would have disclosed the above information. Notwithstanding, your journalist not only allowed the man from Hizbollah to spout his propaganda without divulging the true identity of Al-Manar, but she failed to simply put the question to him. Why did Ms Doogue fail to do so? Has Ms Doogue been spoken to about the incident? If so, what was the nature of those discussions?</p>		
158	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Jenin report I refer to your answer to the questions about Peter Cave and Jenin. Once again, you were asked specific questions. For instance, why did Mr Cave not state that the UN report accused the Palestinians of violating international law because armed men used the shelter of civilian refugee camps? Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
159	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>David Hicks Attachment 23 includes various documents referred to at the 13 February hearing. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
160	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Partisan comments regarding Iraq - Virginia Trioli Could you provide a transcript of the following purported comment by Virginia Trioli on 9 December 2005 around 9.05am: “This morning we speak to the Sydney Harbour skipper of a super maxi, that’s the good news, the bad news is Australia will have to extend its mission in Iraq.” Is there a tape of this report? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of? In the absence of a tape, have you spoken to Ms Trioli about her partisan comment? If so, what was the nature of those discussions? Was she inviting commentary against Australian involvement in Iraq when just after 10am on the same programme on 9 December 2005 she said words to the effect: “The extension of our involvement in Iraq, is that</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>something that concerns you, is that something we should be worried about. I'd love to hear your views" Should she not have more appropriately invited supporters of the move to provide their views?</p> <p>When Ms Trioli had Neil James, defence commentator on the same programme, why did she take the very biased step of adopting the Labor Party position as follows: "Isn't it a concern that the Government don't seem to have an exit strategy, a deadline for the troops to depart." She evidently appeared shocked at the answer: "No, in fact quite the reverse, it would be a major worry if they did." She then wound up the interview. Is there a tape of this report? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of?</p> <p>In the absence of a tape, has Ms Trioli been spoken to about this comment? If so, was the nature of those discussions?</p>		
161	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Gerald Tooth</p> <p>In an item on <i>Saturday Breakfast</i> on Radio National on 21 January 2006, reporter Gerald Tooth was interviewing Army Captain Patrick Davidson, a Queensland soldier who served his country in Iraq. Your reporter was asking, in effect, about changing circumstances in the military and the likelihood of Australian soldiers these days being more likely to see active service. Why did he refer to Captain Davidson's time in Iraq as "so-called active service"? Is this yet another indicator of the ABC's bias against Australian involvement in Iraq? Why is it "so-called" service?</p> <p>Is there a tape of this report? Was it transcribed? Is the tape still available? If not, when was the tape discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of?</p> <p>In the absence of a tape, has Mr Tooth been spoken to about this comment? If so, what was the nature of those discussions?</p>	ABC	20/04/06
162	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Rafael Epstein</p> <p>At the November 2005 Estimates, Mr Cameron was asked about the claim made on <i>AM</i> on 11 July 2005 by reporter Rafael Epstein in London, and referred to earlier, that "Britain like Australia after the Bali bombings, is wondering whether the London bombings are because of Iraq".</p> <p>This matter was also the subject of other complaints and is your official report on 2005 Complaints. Your explanation on this comment was that it should have referred to Afghanistan. In other words, Britain like Australia after Bali is wondering whether it was triggered by its involvement in Afghanistan. That is what your own complaints report suggests.</p> <p>But in London, people, or at least anti-war protestors and some journalists, were speculating about links to Iraq, not Afghanistan. So how did your report arrive at its conclusion? And what exactly WAS your reporter trying to say?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
163	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments on AM 15 July 2005</p> <p>Staying with Afghanistan and <i>AM</i>, on 15 July 2005 you broadcasted a comment that a US General had been</p>	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			“forced to deny” the presence of a resurgent Taliban presence in Afghanistan. This was incorrect. Now not only was the General not forced to make the denial, he never ever made the denial. Who wrote that line? Tony Eastley or Michael Rowland the reporter? Where did the information come from?		
164	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Anti-Israeli bias</p> <p>On AM of 30 December 2005 Tony Eastley said in a report about Palestinian lawlessness: “Of course it’s been relatively quiet in the West Bank”, in respect of terrorism by the Palestinians against Israelis. (Attachment 24)</p> <p>Why did Mr Eastley on 30 December 2005 feel the need to qualify his highly contentious and arguable statement that it has been relatively quiet, with “Of course”?</p> <p>According to the Israeli Government website there were 2,990 terrorist attacks in 2005, including 116 terror alerts in November and December 2005 alone. (Attachment 25)</p> <p>The ABC often makes the mistake of reporting that the Palestinians are observing a ceasefire because there are no successful suicide bomb attacks. Yet the ABC often ignores the fact that hundreds of potential attacks are stopped. For instance, 160 would-be suicide bombers were arrested in the West Bank last year. It appears that their failure to successfully carry out their suicide bombings is reported by the ABC as “a period of quiet from the Palestinians”.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
165	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Comments by Catherine McGrath on AM</p> <p>Catherine McGrath on AM from 10 November 2005: “...the news from Indonesia this morning that wanted terrorist Azahari has been cornered by police.” No attribution is given yet the subject of the report is referred to as a terrorist. Is this another example of a breach of your rule?</p>	ABC	20/04/06
166	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Protest Israeli Prime Minister</p> <p>Attachment 26 relates to a complaint and finding of 1 March 2005 referred to at the 13 February hearing regarding details broadcast about a protest where the Israeli President was due to speak. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
167	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>The Chaser</p> <p>In view of the following and other complaints, will the ABC revisit its relationship with <i>The Chaser</i>?</p> <p>The ABC wants more money from the taxpayers to fund new drama? How much does the ABC spend on <i>The Chaser</i> each year?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
168	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>The Chaser Cole Inquiry “stunt”</p> <p>During the Estimates hearing on 13 February 2006, I referred to an incident involving this program. Was a film crew from your show <i>The Chaser</i> involved in an incident on 8 February 2006 outside the Cole Inquiry? Has the matter been referred to police and strongly criticised by Commissioner Cole. Who at the ABC approved this “stunt”?</p> <p>Please provide full details of the incident? What action has been taken by the ABC in relation to the incident? Are there any management controls at the ABC or do staff</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			just carry on as and when they please? Will you broadcast this item and risk further contempt of court proceedings?		
169	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>The Chaser Leunig cartoon</p> <p>Why did the ABC TV Program <i>The Chaser</i> send the Leunig cartoon to the Iranian newspaper? Was this approved? Does anyone in ABC management exercise editorial control of <i>The Chaser</i>? Will action be taken by the ABC management? Does the ABC consider the cartoon incident was acceptable?</p> <p>Has the ABC had any discussions with <i>The Chaser</i> subsequent to the cartoon incident?</p> <p>Why did Julian Morrow state in <i>The Age</i> of 15 February 2006 that: "It's nothing to do with the television show". Should he not have checked first? Will there be an apology?</p> <p>Publicity for <i>The Chaser</i> states that in its 27 show season on the ABC "Nothing will be off limits". Is this in accordance with the ABC's policies?</p> <p>Did the ABC have any discussions with <i>The Chaser</i> about what was and was not acceptable? Is it ABC policy to allow people working on programmes that it broadcasts to do what they like?</p> <p>Noting the ABC had control over the name of their new series, what other control has the ABC had?</p> <p>Why does the ABC distance itself from its TV shows when it suits?</p> <p>Why does it appear to exercise direction and control over some matters but evades responsibility for others?</p> <p>Was this matter referred to ABC lawyers?</p> <p>Please provide detailed and comprehensive answers to these specific questions, not generalised comments.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
170	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Media Watch Policy</p> <p>In light of the ABC MD Mr Balding's instruction revealed on <i>Media Watch</i> that the ABC is not to publish the Prophet Mohammed cartoons, why is the ABC still showing the Leunig cartoon about the Holocaust on its web site, despite the fact that radical Islamists in Iran regard his work as admirable anti-Semitic propaganda. Isn't this a double standard? Why do the ABC and <i>Media Watch</i> consider it should publish one and not the other? Does a real or implied threat of violence determine the ABC's Editorial Policies?</p>	ABC	06/04/06
171	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Glass House</p> <p>The Glass House programme's guest book of 27 October 2005 states:</p> <p>"Karen: Thanks to Dave Hughes for taking the out of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome last night. I have had CFS for eight years and have never found being stuck at home, sometimes too exhausted to get up off the bed, very funny. Will he be making jokes about Multiple Sclerosis and Leukaemia next?"</p> <p>Your guest book has seven or eight similar posts from CFS sufferers complaining that Mr Hughes behaved in a gratuitous and offensive manner.</p> <p>Is it acceptable for the ABC to ridicule people with a disability?</p> <p>Could you explain how this can be justified in the context</p>	ABC	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			of Sections 10.8.1 and 10.8.2 of your editorial policies which state that the ABC must treat all sections of society with respect and avoid disparaging language against disabled people?		
172	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Vulture How much did the ABC spend on its abortive, eight programme season of <i>Vulture</i> ?	ABC	06/04/06
173	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Inside Business I refer to your answers about Alan Kohler on <i>Inside Business</i> and his editorial slot. Why is he allowed an editorial slot to express his personal opinion? Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response. You also deny the allegation that Mr Kohler alleged corruption when he stated on 2 October 2005 (Attachment 27): “Not mentioned in the report is the name Dick Honan, the main beneficiary of this policy. His company, Manildra, produces all the ethanol in Nowra and will make millions from increasing output to 350 mega litres a year. He also seems to be a prime ministerial friend and a big donor to the Liberal Party. Maybe that’s what I’m missing.” In other words, a friend of the PM makes donations to the Liberal Party and gets what he wants on ethanol policy. That is the inference of the comment. Is this not clearly an allegation of corruption?	ABC	21/04/06
174	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Triple J - Morning Show Was a complaint upheld about tasteless jokes and comments made on the <i>Triple J</i> morning show about former New South Wales Opposition leader John Brogden?	ABC	06/04/06
175	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Triple J Jay and the Doctor Could you provide a transcript of comments made by <i>Jay and The Doctor</i> on their show of 3 November 2005 regarding the Prime Minister and terrorism? On 8 March 2005, which of the <i>Triple J</i> presenters on <i>Jay and the Doctor</i> expressed his personal belief that New South Wales Police had murdered TJ Hickey in Redfern? Attachment 28 is an extract from the <i>Jay and the Doctor</i> Guestbook dated 3 February 2006 referred to at the 13 February hearing regarding inappropriate comments about rape. Please refer to the questions previously answered and the questions and comments put by me at the hearing and provide a detailed response to the same. Given the very large number of examples of apparent offensive or inappropriate comments made by <i>Jay and The Doctor</i> , will the ABC keep their programme tapes for longer than 60 days or are we going to get a continuous cycle of complaints and then a response from the ABC that the audio is no longer available.	ABC	06/04/06
176	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ABC children’s website links Why did the ABC’s dedicated children’s website provide links to <i>Triple J</i> ’s website that included material highly unsuitable for children?	ABC	20/04/06
177	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ABC Conflicts of Interest issues What were the arrangements between Mr Walter	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>Hamilton and the ABC involving the use of ABC facilities in Japan, while he was on leave and in Japan working as I understand it, on a private project? Did he use any of the facilities and did he pay for that use?</p> <p>In respect of the conflict of interest issue raised previously, can I refer you to adjudication in 2003 by the ABC complaints process? It relates to the involvement by <i>Radio National</i> presenter Sandy McCutcheon in an anti-war or peace symposium. The adjudication states that: "The ABC agreed that Mr McCutcheon's involvement in the symposium could have given rise to a perceived conflict of interest with his presentation of Australia Talks Back, which had also examined the subject of the Iraq war. Mr McCutcheon has been spoken to and reminded of his responsibilities in relation to ABC guidelines on engagement in outside activities and conflict of interest."</p> <p>In that light could you explain the prominent involvement of former <i>Media Watch</i> presenter and soon to be <i>Four Corners</i> reporter Liz Jackson at a televised panel decrying sedition laws contained in the counter-terrorism legislation. Did she have permission from the ABC? Has she stepped over the line from journalist to campaigner? How will this personal involvement in the issue affect any <i>Four Corners</i> coverage of the issue?</p> <p>Was a trip made by your Melbourne broadcaster Jon Faine back in 2003 to Al Jazeera at the ABC's expense or Al Jazeera?</p> <p>What was the cost of sending Jon Faine and his team to Singapore to broadcast the execution of Van Nguyen? Why did he need to go when I understand three other reporters were already in Singapore? Please provide a full breakdown of the length of his stay, costs of travel and other expenses?</p>		
178	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Depleted uranium claims</p> <p>Attachment 29 is an article by Dr. John Whitehall, a Director of Neo-natology at Townsville Hospital. He is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University and has a special interest in the causes and incidence of birth defects and is a member of the Australian Birth Defects Society. In the article he accuses a whole range of ABC programmes of falsely perpetuating the myth that depleted uranium causes birth defects. He says the ABC failed to challenge spurious claims made on its programmes, and failed to heed the official position of the United Nations, despite deferring to the UN on other matters, such as terrorism.</p> <p>I note the various specific instances referred to by Dr Whitehall. Please provide me with detailed responses in relation to each of those instances.</p>	ABC	21/04/06
179	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Left-wing journalists</p> <p>Why has the ABC hired yet another left-wing pro-abortion pro-gay marriage journalist Julia Baird to present <i>Sunday Profile</i>?</p> <p>Why does the ABC always seem to hire left-wing journalists?</p> <p>Given the ABC's admission that producers of <i>Perspective</i></p>	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			were unaware of the ALP affiliations of Rebecca Huntley; will the programme take more care to research the relevant political links of commentators where their commentary covers political matters? What procedures are in place at the ABC to ensure this does not occur?		
180	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Instances of double standards</p> <p>You were asked another specific question last time about coverage of the death of the Queen Mother, namely why none of your reporters could find one good thing to say about her. You were not asked about what was said by members of the public or her friends. You were asked about what was said by reporter Rafael Epstein. Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response.</p> <p>And yet when you answered questions about <i>Media Watch</i> and the <i>7.30 Report</i> coverage of the Corby case, you replied that while various people on the programme made comments which supported the assertions made by Senator Santoro, the reporter Tracey Bowden had not made those comments.</p> <p>So on the one hand, people other than the reporter making comments means everything is fine, but on the other hand, when it suits you, if someone other than the reporter makes the comment then that is also OK. It's a double standard. You were asked about the Queen Mother and why no reporter made positive comments. Not the presenter, not the talent. On the Corby case you were asked about overall claims made on the programme and you respond by focusing on the reporter.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
181	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Instances of obscene comments</p> <p>Is the ABC aware of comments by listeners that found a discussion on "dacking" on 702 ABC Sydney on February 10, 2005, "obscene"? Please find attached an extract of items from its guest book (Attachment 30). Does the ABC agree that the discussion was obscene? What policies are there relating to obscene or offensive material.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
182	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Ratings</p> <p>I refer to the ABC answers on ratings. Why, in the absence of commercials and with satisfaction with the ABC apparently so high, do 84% of viewers watch a station other than ABC? Please explain this obvious contradiction.</p> <p>The ABC states that a survey found 88% of people surveyed thought <i>The World Today</i> is balanced. What is their audience? How many were surveyed? How many of those surveyed actually listened to <i>The World Today</i> on a regular basis?</p> <p>Why is <i>ABC TV News</i> rating so far behind commercial competitors?</p> <p>How many ABC programmes rated in the top 10, top 50 and top 100 so far this year?</p> <p>Returning to your answers to Questions on Notice from the previous estimates, I would like come clarification.</p>	ABC	06/04/06
183	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Contempt of court</p> <p>How many times has the ABC been found in contempt of court in the last 10 years? Please provide details of those instances.</p>	ABC	20/04/06
184	Tabled	Fierravanti-	Professional development services	ABC	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
		Wells	What benefits has the ABC obtained in terms of professional development from paying more than \$500,000 to American consultant Valerie Geller?		
185	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	GetUp You were asked why the left-wing internet activist group "GetUp" was quoted as experts on the Australian constitution and you denied it. But they state that the anti-terrorism laws amount to "throwing out the constitution", so they are commenting on the constitution. As you state your editorial policies require you to present "principal relevant viewpoints". How is <i>GetUp</i> , which is not, as your report stated, "a progressive group" – I note the spin with the positive label – they are a left-wing activist group.	ABC	06/04/06
186	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Answers to Supplementary Estimates Question 100 - October 2005 - Minister Nelson Your answer to question 100 makes no sense. You were asked to explain the reference to Minister Nelson and the donkey. What is the connection between a donkey and larrikinism? It seems from listening to the item, he appeared to say that Minister Nelson was a donkey. Your response failed to answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response.	ABC	21/04/06
187	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Answers to Supplementary Estimates Questions October 2005 Regarding question 115, if the ABC does not have a transcript, how does it know what Mr Browning said? Your response failed to adequately answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response. Regarding that and the other comments made by Rhianna Patrick on Triple J, people at the ABC must have poor memories because I am assured that those comments were indeed made. Will you institute some sort of monitoring or are you just going to ignore this.	ABC	21/04/06
188	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Latham Diaries In previous questions you were asked why it was in the first five major interviews with senior Labor people after the release of the <i>Latham Diaries</i> , that the really hard question for the ALP was not asked, namely, what does it say about the judgment of the Parliamentary Labor Party that they tried to foist this person Latham on the Australian people as Prime Minister. This is a question that went to the heart of the judgment or lack thereof, of the ALP. You were asked a specific question – why the ABC failed to ask that question during the five interviews conducted. Your response was "The release of the diaries was extensively covered." Your response failed to adequately answer the question. Please provide a proper and detailed response. In relation to the failure to ask the question referred to above, have you spoken to the five interviewers about their failure to ask pertinent questions? If so, what was the nature of those discussions? If not, please do so and provide me with details of the discussions.	ABC	06/04/06
189	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	ABC Illawarra What is the status of ABC Radio Illawarra? Is it categorised as a regional or a metropolitan radio station?	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			How is this determined? Given its proximity to a major metropolitan area, should it be reclassified and how would this in turn affect its funding and resources? What is the budget and staffing levels of the station?		
190	Tabled	George Campbell	IHR Review Can the ABC make the criteria available that was used to select the company to conduct the review? (This was asked in the Nov round and the actual criteria were not provided, Q.15) Has that consultant concluded their report? When will that report to be released? If they have been released, what are the major findings of the report?	ABC	20/04/06
191	Tabled	George Campbell	Comcare Documents Does Comcare pass on all documents supporting claims to the ABC?	ABC	06/04/06
192	Tabled	George Campbell	Psychological injury claims Have any plans been made to record the reasons for sick leave in order to track systemic issues? Where are the two new psychological injury claims located?	ABC	06/04/06
193	Tabled	George Campbell	Training – Geller How many hours of training did Ms Geller provide in return for the half a million dollars she received in fees? How many staff received training from Ms Gellar? Was a process of competitive tender not undertaken? If not, why not?	ABC	20/04/06
194	Tabled	George Campbell	Internal Audit of Training In which areas did the audit report find the Learning department had failed to meet its targets? What action has been taken to ensure targets are met?	ABC	06/04/06
195	Tabled	George Campbell	Replacing the Managing Director What is the process for selecting a new managing director? Which recruitment firm is conducting the process? What are the selection criteria? When is the new Managing Director due to start? Who is managing the Triennium Funding Agreement process, if not Mr Balding?	ABC	06/04/06
196	Tabled	Conroy & George Campbell	Strong Review – Orchestras Given the significant costs to the orchestras that arise from their divestment from the ABC, has the ABC reconsidered its position on this matter?	ABC	20/04/06
197	Tabled	George Campbell	Hours of Drama How much Australian drama did the ABC produce and screen in 2005? How does this compare to 1996? Is the ABC planning to boost the amount of drama it produces?	ABC	06/04/06
198	Tabled	George Campbell	ABC Radio - Current Affairs Restructure What examination was undertaken to gauge the impact of the changes on the quality of current affairs programming? Who made the assessment that there would be no impact on quality? Is that decision being reviewed? <i>The Herald</i> reported (14/12/05) that two panel operators would be made redundant and <i>The Australian</i> (14/12/05)	ABC	21/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			said they would be redeployed? Which is actually the case? Is the ABC aware of reports in <i>The Australian</i> that ABC presenters were instructed to not tell listeners that there had been industrial action but instead that there were 'circumstances beyond the ABC's control'? Why were presenters instructed to do this		
199	Tabled	Ludwig	DPP 1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned? 2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to... a. Bring charges against the accused party b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges c. Return the brief for no further action 3. Did the agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? a. If so, give details. 4. Did the agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? a. If so, give details.	ABC	21/04/06
200	156 Xref Tabled qon	Fierravanti-Wells	Employment of SBS Journalists When we look at some of your journalists—you do broadcast in many different languages—are your journalists all qualified journalists? I make those comments and I would appreciate it if you could provide to me on notice your system of recruiting journalists, particularly with different language skills—the criteria, the number from overseas and the qualifications of a cross-section of your journalists.	SBS	20/04/06
201	159 Xref Tabled qon	Fierravanti-Wells	Use of 'Terrorist' I think this has been raised in examples at the last estimates hearing, but I do want to speak about concerns that the Jewish community have had. I think Senator Santoro asked about how SBS translates the Israeli use of 'terrorist' for 'militant'. A further examples from SBS World News on 5 December is: <i>Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz has reiterated that Israel would not sit with its hands crossed in the wake of attacks by militants.</i> Further, on 22 November last year: <i>Israeli military sources said it was the Shiite military group Hezbollah which sparked the fighting.</i> I will put this on notice Mr Brown —...I am happy to take that on notice and look through it. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —All right. When you look at the programming, I would like your view on the transcript of an item from 18 January, A Report by Chairman Mao, by Caroline Davey on World View; a report on the same program on Peter Debnam's comments about policing in New South Wales. I will put these questions on notice as well.	SBS	02/05/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
202	Tabled	Conroy	Funding for SBS Digitisation How much money has the Government invested in digital infrastructure at SBS?	SBS	21/04/06
203	Tabled	Conroy	Funding for Analogue Broadcasts How much money does SBS spend on analogue broadcasts at present?	SBS	06/04/06
204	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Afghanistan Previous questions related to the October 2005 <i>Dateline</i> programme on Afghanistan and the claims made by SBS that US soldiers burned the bodies of Taliban fighters, knowing they had desecrated the bodies and violated Islam. Why has the transcript of the programme (not the Negus-Dupont interview) been removed from the SBS website? Please provide a transcript including the introduction by Mr Negus. Are you aware the US military investigated this incident and found the bodies were burned because of hygiene reasons and the soldiers who did it had not intended to violate Islam or desecrate the bodies? That was pretty clear from the interview George Negus did with the photographer Mr Dupont, from the statements he made to Mr Negus, and yet Mr Negus and the journalist John Martinkus, who wasn't even there, were allowed to make all sorts of inflammatory remarks in the programme. You were asked about those last time and I don't believe you provided a satisfactory answer. What was the time-frame for this episode of <i>Dateline</i> ? Did Mr Negus interview Mr Dupont live or pre-recorded? In other words, was Mr Negus aware that the claims he made during the earlier part of the programme were wrong? What discussions did the Executive Producer of the programme have prior to its broadcast? Did he upwardly refer this story?	SBS	20/04/06 + 1 attach't
205	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Anti-US bias Is it the role of SBS to inflame anti-American views among Australia's ethnic population, especially Muslims? Then why does SBS TV continually do this? For instance, SBS broadcast pictures from Abu Graib jail that were taken at the same time as earlier pictures and were very similar, and added nothing to our understanding of that event. All they did was create more anti-American sentiment. <i>Dateline</i> producer Michael Carey said "People need to see these so they can understand what happened." Why don't people need to see the Danish cartoons so they can understand what happened? Is this a double standard? Does SBS only publish material where anger is directed at Americans, rather than the media? American concerns have been aired about not publishing the images because they will inflame Middle Eastern anger. SBS says it will not buckle before pressure. Isn't SBS doing that very same thing with the Danish cartoons – buckling to pressure?	SBS	20/04/06
206	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Cartoon Why did SBS state that a cartoon depicting Mohammed as a pig was one of the cartoons when in fact it was bogus? Did SBS publish a correction?	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
207	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	<p>World View – 8 February 2006</p> <p>On <i>World View</i> of 8 February 2006, SBS Radio broadcast the following, according to a transcript on your website:</p> <p>“More recently, revelations of the physical to psychological torture of detainees at the US Naval Base Guantanamo Bay have revived the debate over the treatment of prisoners in the “war on terror”. So, how easy is it to create a torturer?”</p> <p>Is this appropriate and in keeping with your broadcasting standards?</p> <p>I refer to various allegations of torture, made I gather by various detainees to groups like Amnesty International. We also know from various sources that Al Qaeda trains its terrorists to make false allegations of torture. What evidence does SBS have to support the statement about “revelations of torture” – as opposed to “allegations of torture?” Why did SBS present dubious allegations from terror suspects as “revelations” and not “claims”?</p> <p>I am puzzled why such a major development in this story – from allegations and claims of torture, and admissions of the force-feeding of detainees on hunger strikes, to “revelations of torture” - a huge development in the story - cannot be found anywhere in your website news archive where there are hundreds of others stories about Guantanamo Bay.</p>	SBS	20/04/06
208	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	<p>Labelling – use of term “terrorist”</p> <p>At the last estimates, you were asked questions about how SBS “translates” the Israeli use of “terrorist” for the preferred SBS term of “militant”. On 22 November 2005 SBS published the following: “Israeli military sources said it was the Shi’ite militant group (Hezbollah) which sparked the fighting”. Did they say that? Please investigate and provide a detailed response.</p> <p>Please provide a clear indication of what is your policy on describing a group or individual as a terrorist or terrorist organisation? Previous indications by SBS refer to an internal policy guideline. Could you provide a copy of that? I note that in previous response to questions you stated that it was enclosed, but no copy was provided. Please do so.</p> <p>How do your journalists determine when to use the term terrorist? Do they have any guidelines? Do they receive feedback? Please provide full details including documents, letters or memos.</p>	SBS	20/04/06
209	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	<p>Complaints</p> <p>Could you provide the details of the 11 complaints that were upheld that you referred to in previous responses? Whilst I do not ask that the names be provided, I would like the detail of the complaint, the full transcript of the item complained about and the SBS response.</p>	SBS	20/04/06 + 7 attach'ts
210	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	<p>Anti- Bush material</p> <p>I refer to your answers to the questions about the promotion of the anti-Bush material by the National Editor Diane Willman, or at the very least someone more junior’s bidding on her behalf.</p> <p>What you appear to be saying in your answer is this “the correspondence was generated in the ordinary course of research for a range of material relevant to the re-</p>	SBS	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			inauguration of President Bush." Could you provide the rest of the correspondence available to you? Assuming Ms Willman had a range of material available to her, why did she specifically focus on the anti-Bush material?		
211	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Cartoons about Prophet Mohammed In answers to previous questions you also state that the satire had become news in itself and therefore was worthy of reporting. The satirising of the Prophet Mohammed has become newsworthy. Would SBS show the cartoons in the same way it feels it would be suitable to broadcast material lampooning President Bush? Is this not a clear example of double standards?	SBS	20/04/06
212	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Monitoring of Radio Programs Do you actively monitor your radio programmes? How is this done? Is there a formal system? Please provide full details. Please provide all the inappropriate items picked up in the past year by any formal monitoring systems you have in place.	SBS	20/04/06
213	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Why was the racist and bigoted Greek programme item referred to only picked up when someone from the Jewish community complained?	SBS	20/04/06
214	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Do you produce transcripts online? There is not a single transcript on the Greek programme, either in Greek or English.	SBS	20/04/06
215	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	I note a complaint was upheld about the Urdu programme causing great offence among some sections of the Muslim community, and that this was not picked up by monitoring. Given the fact that complaints about the promotion of racist material on both the Arabic and Urdu programmes have been upheld, will SBS Radio urgently implement a professional system of monitoring in light of disturbing Jihadist material being circulated by some overseas media? I note a complaint was upheld that a commentator on the Russian programme promoted racist views and that this was not picked up by monitoring. I note the Tamil broadcaster left SBS after being exposed as the international fundraiser for the tamil Tigers and this was only picked up by an external media organisation's investigation.	SBS	20/04/06
216	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Journalists employed at SBS What declarations of political activity are required of SBS Radio staff? At the Estimates hearing on 13 February, I requested information about the qualifications of SBS journalists. If possible, please provide short profiles on journalists employed at SBS Radio.	SBS	06/04/06 + 3 attach'ts
217	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Request for documents Could you please provide a transcript of an item from <i>World View</i> of 18 January 2006 of Caroline Davey's interview with John Ralston Saul?	SBS	06/04/06 + 1 attach't
218	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Ratings At the Estimates hearing on 13 February, I made reference to ratings for SBS. Could you provide me with details available for all your programs pertaining to ratings? What is the size of the audience for <i>World View</i> ?	SBS	02/05/06 + 2 attach'ts

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			How often is the online content of SBS Radio news updated? Daily, weekly? Please explain why are the latest stories on your website, as at 14 February 2006, dated from October 2005. It would appear from this that your staff take a four month break from online activities over summer? Please explain.		
219	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Peak oil In response to previous questions, you claim to have no knowledge of the critics of Peak Oil. You state: "SBS can find no evidence to support the suggestion that peak Oil is regarded as a myth." What steps did you take to investigate this assertion? I suggest that a simple search by your reporter might have illicited a reference to "Inflaming the Oil Crisis" by Joe Kaplinsky or "Debunking the Hubbert Model" by Michael C Lynch. Please examine these articles. Will you then undertake to provide balance by reporting critics of the Hubbard Theory of Peak Oil?	SBS	20/04/06
220	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Source of SBS stories What is the source of your news stories on your website? It appears from the website to state: "Source – World News" No reference is made to news agencies. Do wire stories that are contained or otherwise referred to on the SBS website have to conform to your editorial policies?	SBS	20/04/06
221	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Relevance of SBS Given your concession at the Estimates hearing that you are unable to fund adequate monitoring of existing broadcasts, surely this should be a higher priority for SBS rather than duplication of material that is already broadcast elsewhere. If SBS Radio cannot monitor material that is being broadcast and racist and bigoted material gets past your monitoring or lack thereof and you are actively fostering the opposite of what you are supposed to be doing, what is the relevance of SBS in today's world? Furthermore, given that you are duplicating a service provided by other broadcasters, again, what is the relevance of tax payers continuing to fund SBS in today's world? Why does Australia need SBS Radio when there are stations like Adelaide community radio station 5EBI – FM providing programmes for no fewer than 45 language or national groups?	SBS	06/04/06
222	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Radio Funding How much does SBS Radio plan to spend setting up and running an English language youth programme?	SBS	06/04/06
223	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	Duplication of Material During the Estimates hearing on 13 February 2006 you referred to material broadcast regarding the Cronulla riots and aftermath. Are you aware of other similar broadcasts, for example on Triple J? (Attachment 1). Triple J provides young audiences with a range of commentary on multicultural issues. Recent programmes include a computer camp in Norway; a review of the movie <i>Munich</i> . Racism at the cricket; the plight of Aboriginal people camping out around Darwin; the Indonesian province of Aceh; fascist and anti-fascist music in Germany; West Papua; East Timor; politics in	SBS	06/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			Latin America (Attachment 2)		
224	Tabled	Fierraventi-Wells	<p>SBS Radio Programs - Audience</p> <p>I also refer to programs by the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Association (NEMBC). In understand that NEMBC have a very large number of programmes and stations in about 132 different language or nationality programmes. I understand that broadcasting occurs all over Australia.</p> <p>By way of example, you have a Norwegian language programme. How many Norwegians living in Australia would not be able to understand English? Could you provide a list of programs and the estimated audience for each of your SBS Radio programs?</p>	SBS	06/04/06 + 1 attach't
225	Tabled Xref HansrdE CITA 160	Ronaldson	<p>Documentaries – Cutting Edge</p> <p>While there have been some informative and non-controversial documentaries on the Middle East, especially Iraq, these have been far outnumbered by programs reaching questionable conclusions.</p> <p>The SBS "Cutting Edge" series had an in depth look at the issue of terrorism over two weeks, with three hour long programs each week. The first three slots - December 6, 7 & 8, 2005 were given to a controversial three part BBC series, <i>"The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear"</i>.</p> <p>This series sets out to prove an elaborate conspiracy theory, summed up by the narrator's introduction to the series. The narrator states that today politicians are no longer able to inspire voters with ideologies.</p> <p><i>"But now, they have discovered a new role that restores their power and authority. Instead of delivering dreams, politicians now promise to protect us from nightmares. They say that they will rescue us from dreadful dangers that we cannot see and do not understand. And the greatest danger of all is international terrorism. A powerful and sinister network, with sleeper cells in countries across the world. A threat that needs to be fought by a war on terror. But much of this threat is a fantasy, which has been exaggerated and distorted by politicians. It's a dark illusion that has spread unquestioned through governments around the world, the security services, and the international media.</i></p> <p><i>"This is a series of films about how and why that fantasy was created, and who it benefits. At the heart of the story are two groups: the American neo-conservatives, and the radical Islamists. Together, they created today's nightmare vision of a secret, organised evil that threatens the world. A fantasy that politicians then found restored their power and authority in a disillusioned age. And those with the darkest fears became the most powerful."</i></p> <p>The series outlines what it considers to be the parallel histories of radical Islamism and neo-conservatism. It states that the neo-cons found their inspiration in the philosophy of Leo Strauss, who it says argued that rather than individual freedoms, society needed a shared moral framework. To achieve this, society needed a powerful and inspiring myth, such as the USA having <i>"a unique destiny to battle the forces of evil throughout the world"</i>.</p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>Such a myth need not be true. The series alleges that, to achieve this, the neo-cons went to great lengths to paint the Soviet Union as an evil empire that was bent on taking over the world.</p> <p>The series further argues that this was completely untrue, and that once the Soviet Union had collapsed, the neo-cons eventually replaced it with the terrorists. The narrator states:</p> <p><i>"But with the attacks that were about to hit America [on September 11], the neo-conservatives would at last find the evil enemy that they had been searching for ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union. And in their reaction to the attacks, the neo-conservatives would transform the failing Islamist movement into what would appear to be the grand revolutionary force that Zawahiri had always dreamed of. But much of it would exist only in people's imaginations. It would be the next phantom enemy."</i></p> <p>The series goes so far as to allege that</p> <p><i>"bin Laden had no formal organization until America invented one for him"</i></p> <p>and even that,</p> <p><i>"There is also no evidence that bin Laden used the term 'al-Qaeda' to refer to the name of a group until after September the 11th, when he realised that this was the term the Americans had given it."</i></p> <p>Given that he formed al-Qaeda in 1988, this is highly unlikely.</p> <p>As proof that al-Qaeda, as we know it, does not exist, the documentary cites the lack of success in capturing al-Qaeda members in Tora Bora at the end of the war in Afghanistan. The narrator baldly states,</p> <p><i>"The terrible truth was that there was nothing there because al-Qaeda as an organization did not exist."</i></p> <p>In fact, thousands of al-Qaeda fighters escaped Tora Bora, largely because the local Afghan fighters the US was using to capture them were largely unconcerned about whether they caught them, and in some cases had been paid off to ensure they didn't.</p> <p>The series concludes that this "fantasy" of an organised terrorist network is able to continue to exist because it serves the purposes of so many - the politicians, the media, terrorism experts, the Islamists themselves and, of course, the neo-cons. The only fantasy I see in all this is the one propagated by the makers of this series.</p> <p>The second part of the series, which was screened the following week, was another three part BBC series called "The New al-Qaeda". It outlined, in a factual and one would have thought non-controversial manner, how al-Qaeda has been reforming itself since the Taliban lost power in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Strangely, George Negus, who introduced the programmes, described both series as being "highly controversial."</p> <p>A. Does SBS consider these two documentaries to have provided "balance"?</p> <p>B. Does SBS consider both of these documentaries to be "controversial"?</p>		

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>C. Does SBS consider <i>"The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear"</i> to have been accurate? If not, which assertions would you identify as being inaccurate?</p> <p>D. Does SBS consider <i>"The Power of Nightmares: the Rise of the Politics of Fear"</i> to have been an appropriate documentary to air?</p>		
226	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Documentary - "Truth, Lies and Intelligence" Carmel Travers wrote, directed and narrated "Truth, Lies and Intelligence" an advocacy documentary attacking the decision to go to war in Iraq, which SBS showed in the "Storyline Australia" slot on June 23. In Travers' introduction, she said, <i>"The Americans claimed victory in Iraq in 21 days, yet two years later the invasion, conquest and occupation of Iraq is shaping up as the greatest foreign policy blunder since Vietnam. And like Vietnam is based on a litany of lies."</i> She continued, <i>"The war on Iraq was a product of the White House and its elite corps of Presidential advisers, the hawkish neo-cons, determined to shape a post 9/11 world in their image."</i> There was no mention anywhere that in the lead up to the war, everyone thought Iraq had WMD. Greg Thielman, a former head of intelligence at the US State Department, complained about the Bush administration <i>"describing Iraq as an ally of al-Qaeda, which is simply not true"</i>. In fact, post war enquiries both in the US and UK have found there were links between Saddam Hussein's regime and al-Qaeda. Travers then added, <i>"But truth is not what it was about. The Bush administration was prepared to go to any lengths to build a case for war, including going to Niger in West Africa"</i>. She then cited the infamous forged documents and Joe Wilson, who investigated the issue for the US but has since been discredited, cited three reports <i>"denying Iraq was importing uranium"</i>. Travers then said that in his State of the Union address, <i>"President Bush lied to the American people when he uttered these words"</i>. President Bush was then shown saying, <i>"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa"</i>. The Butler enquiry into the suicide of Dr David Kelly established that Iraq had, in fact sought uranium from Niger, albeit unsuccessfully. The reports cited by Wilson only show that Saddam never succeeded, which Bush never claimed. Travers also interviewed asylum seeker expert Andrew Wilkie (whose apocalyptic predictions of mass starvation and refugee problems seem not to have discredited him in the eyes of the left). Wilkie described Colin Powell's speech to the UN as <i>"jaw-dropping"</i> and <i>"complete nonsense"</i>. Travers also</p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p>referred to the <i>"so-called democratisation of Iraq"</i> and interviewed a few people in the streets of Amman to prove that the war in Iraq was driving the whole Muslim world to hate the West. She also touched on Abu Ghraib and claimed that there has been a massive curtailment of our civil liberties.</p> <p>Somehow Travers never managed to mention the 17 UN Security Council resolutions Saddam had ignored. She concluded by referring to <i>"this illegal war based not on the truth, not on intelligence, but on a web of lies."</i></p> <p>A. Does SBS consider <i>"Truth, Lies and Intelligence"</i> to have been accurate? If not, which assertions would you identify as being inaccurate?</p> <p>B. Does SBS consider <i>"Truth, Lies and Intelligence"</i> to have been an appropriate documentary to air?</p>		
227	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Dateline - November</p> <p>All six reports or interviews in Dateline's two November programs critical of the USA or the war on terror. In the November 2 episode, Thom Cookes reported on the indictment of Lewis Libby and used the opportunity to rehash false claims that the US assertion that Iraq was seeking uranium from Niger was based on forgeries. Cookes stated,</p> <p><i>"It has since been revealed that the claim was based on documents that were crude forgeries. But the way these documents were used to construct a case for war was the start of a murky campaign to deceive the public and discredit anyone who stood in the way."</i></p> <p>Joe Wilson, whose wife's CIA status was allegedly leaked by Libby in response to Wilson's anti-war claims, stated,</p> <p><i>"When it became apparent that that assertion was substantiated only by these purported documents, which later turned out to be determined by the International Atomic Energy Agency to have been forgeries, it became apparent that the US Government had misled the American people and the Congress of the US and indeed the world."</i></p> <p>In fact, the Butler report in the UK, set up to investigate the suicide of David Kelley, found that Saddam's regime had in fact attempted to obtain uranium from Niger. Host George Negus then interviewed Washington journalist Martin Walker, who has been writing about the forged documents for two years. Negus asked,</p> <p><i>"What does it say about the Bush Administration's case for the war in Iraq?"</i></p> <p>Walker replied,</p> <p><i>"Well, it undermines it, I think, even more thoroughly than the absence of finding any weapons of mass destruction inside Iraq and now it appears that part of what they were trying also to do was to knock down dissident voices and to discredit this claim by former ambassador Joseph Wilson that there was nothing ever in this claim that Bush made in the State of the Union address that Iraq was trying to get uranium from the African state of Niger,"</i></p> <p>Walker continues,</p> <p><i>"The main reason it was done was that they were claiming, and Bush said this in the State of the Union</i></p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p><i>address, that they were following on from a report by British intelligence. Now, this is what really links together, I think, the real flaw in the case for war because Blair himself in Britain has gone through a very, very tough political bruising over the claim by the BBC that he quote "sexed up" the case for war. Now it appears that that same sexing up case is creeping over the Atlantic and is also damaging the Bush Administration's case for war.</i></p> <p>The following story on the same show was by Bronwyn Adcock was about an Al Jazeera journalist who was arrested for assisting and being a member of al-Qaeda. There is a lengthy interview with the journalist's lawyer who insists he is innocent. This story was linked in Negus' introduction to Australia's proposed anti-terror laws.</p> <p>The next story was an interview with barrister Geoffrey Robertson Q.C. in which Negus questioned him about his concerns about the loss of human rights "in the name of fighting terror".</p> <p>Robertson claimed,</p> <p><i>"It's a terrible error for America to make and for the Bush Administration to make in downgrading the Geneva Conventions and refusing to follow them at Guantanamo Bay because it is Americans in the past and in the future, American military, who've benefited from the Geneva Conventions and from the universal force that they should have as international law."</i></p> <p>Of course the US is receiving no benefit from the Geneva Conventions in this conflict because the terrorists ignore them, and are therefore not entitled to benefit from them, a point Robertson himself ignores.</p> <p>The following week, Olivia Rousset reported on further allegations of US atrocities at Abu Ghraib. She claims,</p> <p><i>"It has been widely reported that in August, 2003 Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld encouraged the physical coercion and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners to try to get information on the growing insurgency."</i></p> <p>Rousset also states,</p> <p><i>"[Former Abu Ghraib prisoner] Haj Ali believes his first interrogator was Israeli" and "Ali says he heard women being raped every night".</i></p> <p>There were in fact <u>no female prisoners at Abu Ghraib</u>, a fact Rousset neglected to mention. Instead, she continued,</p> <p><i>"Little is known about these women they don't appear in any of the photos, and it is near impossible to find women willing to tell their stories."</i></p> <p>Ali claimed that, since the scandal,</p> <p><i>"Only one thing has changed in Abu Ghraib. The cameras they used to take photos have now disappeared. Abuse now is more than before. Humiliation is more. The number of jails has risen drastically".</i></p> <p>Rousset did not speak to anyone from the US forces about the allegations in her story.</p> <p>The other story that night was a report from Bronwyn Adcock about the alleged CIA abduction from Italy of a</p>		

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			<p>terror suspect.</p> <p>A. Does SBS consider each of the stories in Dateline's two November programs to have been accurate? If not, which assertions would you identify as being inaccurate?</p> <p>B. Do any of the assertions in Dateline's two November programs breach SBS' editorial guidelines?</p> <p>C. Does SBS consider, individually or in totality, the stories on Dateline's two November programs to have been balanced?</p> <p>D. Does SBS consider Dateline's two November programs to have been appropriate to air?</p>		
228	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Dateline May On "Dateline" on May 11, Elizabeth Tadic reported on the Gaza settlers. In the introduction to the story, George Negus referred to <i>"the settlements that Israel has provocatively established in the Gaza Strip over the last 38 years"</i>. Tadic asked one settler, <i>"What do you think when you hear from the international community saying that the settlements are illegal under international law? What do you say to that?"</i> She stated, <i>"Here in Bethlehem, Israel's security barrier cuts through Palestinian territory to ensure the settlement on the hill, Gush Etzion, remains in Israel and becomes part of Jerusalem. Jerusalem's borders appear to be expanding."</i> Tadic also adopted Arab propaganda in stating that religious settlers, who she referred to as Lubavitch Jews, <i>"will not tolerate any detour from the ideal of a greater Israel, which stretches from the Nile River to the Euphrates."</i> Is it not the case that what is "Palestinian territory" will be decided by negotiations between the parties?</p>	SBS	20/04/06
229	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Ross Cameron 6 January On January 6, Ross Cameron reported Ariel Sharon was <i>"found to be at least indirectly responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians"</i> in Lebanese refugee camps. Is it not the case that Mr Sharon was found to be "indirectly responsible" and that there was no "a least" about it?</p>	SBS	20/04/06
230	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Mary Kostakidis 16 December On December 16, Mary Kostakidis referred to Marwan Barghouti as "the imprisoned" Marwan Barghouti, while Vesna Nazor called him a "jailed activist." A. Given that Mr Barghouti was jailed for numerous murders after a trial in a civilian court, would it not be appropriate for him to be described as "jailed murderer" or "terrorist"? Even worse, after Barghouti's victory in Fatah internal elections, Nick Wells reported, on November 28, <i>"Israel accused him of being a leader of the al-Aqsa"</i></p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			<p><i>Martyrs Brigades and sentenced him to five life terms."</i> This implies that there was no trial, and that his imprisonment was purely a decision of the Israeli government, acting on an "accusation" of membership of an organisation. In fact, he was convicted in an Israeli civilian court of multiple counts of murder. In relation to Question 5 above, it is notable that the SBS seems to exaggerate the case against Mr Sharon, but downplay the crimes of Barghouti.</p> <p>A. Do you think that Mr Wells' description of Barghouti to have been appropriate?</p>		
231	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Lee Lin Chin 31 August On August 31, Lee Lin Chin announced, "Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said gaining control of Gaza was just a first step to the establishment of an independent state with its capital in Jerusalem, something Israel has never agreed to." A. Is it not the case that Israel agreed to exactly that at Camp David in 2000 and Taba in 2001?</p>	SBS	20/04/06
232	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Mary Kostakidis 12 July On July 12, Mary Kostakidis announced: <i>"The exiled head of the Fatah movement says the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was poisoned by Israel. Arafat's health deteriorated suddenly in October last year. He died the following month in a French hospital, but strict privacy laws have ensured that the exact cause of death remains secret. Farouk Kaddoumi, who succeeded Arafat as Fatah leader, told reporters in Tunisia that he could "categorically confirm" that poison was hidden in Arafat's food and medication. But, according to reports, he did not say how he knew that."</i> This story implied there may be truth to these claims. The privacy laws cited mean that only Arafat's family may reveal his cause of death, which they surely would have done if Israel was responsible. At the time Arafat was being treated in the hospital, Palestinian leaders ruled out poisoning as a cause of his illness. In addition, Kaddoumi is not "exiled", he is so extreme that he refuses to be part of anything that recognizes the legitimacy of Israel, and that includes the Palestinian Authority. His exile is fully self-imposed. A. Does SBS consider this story to have been accurate? If not, which assertions would you identify as being inaccurate? B. Do any of the assertions in this story breach SBS' editorial guidelines? C. Does SBS consider this story to have been balanced? D. Does SBS consider this story to have been appropriate to air?</p>	SBS	20/04/06
233	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Jane Braslin 25 May On May 25, Jane Braslin, reported, "Mr Abbas wants the internationally sponsored Roadmap peace plan back on the agenda. It was derailed when the US and Israel refused to negotiate with his predecessor, the late Yasser Arafat." Is it not the case that the roadmap was derailed when the Palestinian Authority refused to do anything to prevent terror attacks, which was, explicitly, the first obligation for either side under the terms of the Roadmap?</p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
234	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Comments Mary Kostakidis 25 May On May 25, Mary Kostakidis stated, "The controversial Patriarch of Jerusalem, Irineos I has effectively been sacked. The Patriarch has been accused of selling church property in the Palestinian Old City of Jerusalem to Jewish interests." A. On what basis is the term "Palestinian Old City of Jerusalem" used? B. Does the term "Palestinian Old City of Jerusalem" include the Jewish Quarter and the Western Wall?</p>	SBS	20/04/06
235	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Documentaries – Balance The following is a description, taken from the film's website, of a documentary made by a Swedish film maker, and available in English. It has been shown on Swedish Television. MY MOTHER WAS MURDERED BY A SUICIDE BOMBER min mamma mördades av en självmordsbombare Bernt Hermele, Jacek Machula <i>Perla Hermele, a 78-year-old Jewish woman from Sweden, was one of 30 people killed in what has become known as the Passover Massacre, a suicide attack at the Israeli beach resort of Netanya in March 2002. Three years later her son, journalist Bernt Hermele, makes a very personal film about what really happened to his mother. Together with codirector Jacek Machula, he traces her last hours and speaks to people directly involved in the attack. After talking with the policeman in charge of the investigation, the fireman first on the scene at the hotel, and the doctor who examined the body after the attack, Hermele travels to Tulkarem in Palestine to meet the father and brother of the suicide bomber. My Mother Was Murdered by a Suicide Bomber tackles subjects like hate, forgiveness and being able to see the pain on the other side. In this manner, the filmmaker honours the memory of his mother.</i> On October 25, 2005, the "Cutting Edge" series ran the Swedish documentary "Dining with the Devil", a Swedish documentary alleging long standing collaboration between the CIA and Palestinian terrorists. "Dining with the Devil" outlines links between the agency and Ali Hassan Salameh, who was blamed for the Munich massacre, alleging a pact that allowed Arafat to address the UN in return for the Palestinians protecting US interests in Lebanon. Israel killed Salameh in 1979. Then, it alleges, the US made Jibril Rajoub its man in the 1990s, and trained his men. The narrator claims this was at a time when "Jewish settlers took up arms and attacked Palestinian civilians". It claims that on September 16 2001, Rajoub to up an offer to "become the USA's number one terrorist hunter". The narrator continues, "This was his, and Arafat's, chance to come in from the cold and win the new president's trust. But Ariel Sharon saw the new cooperation between the US and the Palestinians as a threat. In April 2002, he ordered the Israeli army to strike Rajoub's headquarters in Ramallah, officially because Rajoub was sheltering Islamic terrorists."</p>	SBS	20/04/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			Will SBS consider purchasing and screening this film to, in part, balance the many pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel documentaries it has aired over the years?		
236	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>DPP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned? For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bring charges against the accused party Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges Return the brief for no further action Did the agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If so, give details. Did the agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If so, give details. 	SBS	20/04/06
237	109-110	Conroy	<p>Commonwealth support for Telstra's CDMA Network</p> <p>I am just concerned to make sure you get the total amount that they are going to receive rather than they have received in terms of dollars to date, just to avoid the issue of their having only partially received something. So if I could I get the total amount they are expected to receive for the CDMA.</p> <p>They are saying \$122 million. Others believe it is much closer to \$400 million.</p>	ICT	22/03/06
238	112	Conroy	<p>Consultation process in the operational separation determinations</p> <p>I have a few questions about the consultation process the department engaged in for the operational separation determinations. On what day were the operational separation determinations made available for public comment?</p> <p>How long did interested parties have to comment on these determinations?</p> <p>When were the determinations finalised and registered by the minister?</p>	Tel	22/03/06
239	25 (14/2)	Lundy	<p>Outstanding qon – Reviews conducted by the Department in the past 12 months</p> <p>When did you actually send the answer to this question to the Minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Williams—I will have to get you that information.</p>	Corp	24/03/06
240	115	Conroy	<p>Reviews conducted by the Department in the past 12 months</p> <p>How many of these reviews have resulted in new legislation?</p> <p>How many have adopted the recommendations resulting from the reviews? Have we had any recommendations adopted from any of the reviews?</p> <p>How many of the reviews have recommended no changes to the existing law?</p>	Corp	03/04/06
241	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>Hillsong</p> <p>How many grants have you issued to Hillsong Church, its</p>	Corp	22/03/06

QoN No	Hansard ref	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
			associated corporations and entities? List name, price and duration of funding by department.		
242	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>DPP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned? 2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bring charges against the accused party b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges c. Return the brief for no further action 3. Did the agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, give details. 4. Did the agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, give details. 	Corp	22/03/06