

**Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts**

2007-08 Budget Estimates

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio

Questions on Notice – Thursday, 24 May 2007

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Division/ Agency	Date Rec'd
201	ECITA 6	Conroy	Did the route taken by Zamro International during its CDMA testing go off the highway?	ACMA	07/09/07
202	ECITA 7	Conroy	Did Zamro International propose any further measures to ACMA or the Minister to alleviate any concerns regarding the rigour of the coverage audit?	ACMA	18/02/08
203	ECITA 7	Conroy	If Zamro International proposed any changes or additions, could you tell us what they were, and were the proposals acted on and, if not, why not?	ACMA	18/02/08
204	ECITA 13	Webber	Going back to [Senator Macdonald's] questions about north-west Queensland, I presume it would have to be part of the [CDMA testing] sample if you are saying it is representative of all the different terrain and issues in Australia?	ACMA	18/02/08
205	ECITA 13	Eggleston	To what extent is mobile telephone coverage affected by climactic changes, atmospheric temperatures?	ACMA	18/02/08
206	ECITA 14	Wortley	How much has ACMA spent in establishing the Do Not Call Register for the 3 May launch?	ACMA	07/09/07
207	ECITA 14	Wortley	Was ACMA's contract with Service Stream Solutions for \$12.1 million over four years with an additional three year option?	ACMA	07/09/07
208	ECITA 15	Wortley	How much of the \$33 million budget for the Do Not Call Register was spent on testing the system prior to the 3 May launch?	ACMA	07/09/07
209	ECITA 15	Wortley	How long was spent on testing the Do Not Call Register? You say it was satisfactory. Can you give us a bit more detail? What does 'satisfactory' mean?	ACMA	07/09/07
210	ECITA 16	Wortley	Was compliance with laws such as the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act a condition of Service Solutions' contract?	ACMA	07/09/07
211	ECITA 17	Webber	Senator WEBBER—How much is the fee? Ms O'Loughlin—There is a wide variety of fees. It really depends on how many numbers the telemarketer is going to wash through the service. There is an exemption for up to 500 numbers where that is free but there is a wide range of levels of fees. Senator WEBBER—Is there a schedule that you can table? Ms O'Loughlin—Certainly.	ACMA	07/09/07
212	ECITA 18	Wortley	Is it true that Federal Privacy Commissioner Karen Curtis' phone number was given out by a promotional material on the Do Not Call hotline? Has ACMA looked into that?	ACMA	07/09/07
213	ECITA 18	Wortley	How many inquiries for information [about the Do Not Call Register] did ACMA receive?	ACMA	18/02/08
214	ECITA 19	Wortley	Just going back to the registering of complaints or inquiries regarding access to the Do Not Call Register since 3 May, is ACMA able to provide the nature of what those concerns were, as well, when it provides the figures?	ACMA	18/02/08

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215	ECITA 20	Macdonald	Just in relation to Queensland [...] what is the response to the Do Not Call Register to date?	ACMA	07/09/07
216	ECITA 20	Macdonald	I would be very interested to hear where ACMA went [in relation to the CDMA coverage audit] that was north of the Tropic of Capricorn?	ACMA	18/02/08
217	ECITA 28	Conroy	Are there blackspot issues with Channel B in the Sunshine Coast as well as the Gold Coast, or just the Gold Coast?	ACMA	18/02/08
218	ECITA 28	Conroy	Can ACMA table all documentation related to the last LAP review for Perth?	ACMA	07/09/07
219	ECITA 28	Conroy	Is it correct that ACMA has specified that the ABC may transmit at strengths up to three times the international standard of 1,000 millivolts per metre in an urban area?	ACMA	07/09/07
220	ECITA 29	Conroy	Can ACMA tell me when the expiry of licence numbers 1198482 and 1198484 – that is, ABC 6WF and ABC 6RN – were gazetted?	ACMA	07/09/08
221	ECITA 31	Macdonald	Could ACMA let me know what technical and economic evaluations have been done that might justify a change in the C band usage? Could I also inquire, what the process will be? I am wondering what the process might be in terms of what oversight Parliament might have on the conclusions you come to?	ACMA	18/02/08
222	ECITA 38	Conroy	What is the projected cost of the information and education campaign running alongside the Do Not Call Register? Is that figure with, or without, GST?	ACMA	07/09/07
223	ECITA 38	Conroy	Will ACMA be undertaking any other information campaigns?	ACMA	07/09/07
224	ECITA 42	Wortley	Can you advise what transitional arrangements in respect of access to digital spectrum will be in place for the National Indigenous Television service and community television during the transition period?	ACMA	18/02/08
225	ECITA 43	Nash	When ACMA did the CDMA coverage audit did it note the strength of signals in each of the locations tested?	ACMA	07/09/07
226	ECITA 43	Nash	What number of towers did ACMA test and what is the total number of towers in non-metropolitan Australia?	ACMA	18/02/08
227	Tabled	Conroy	<p>1. For Outcome 1 (<i>regulatory environment</i>), Output 1.1 (<i>regulation</i>) provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>2. For Output 1.2 (<i>planning and licensing</i>), provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>3. For Outcome 2 (<i>effective information standards and safeguards</i>) Output 2.1 provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>4. For Output 2.2 (<i>information about products and services</i>) provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>5. Indicate whether these unspent amounts will lapse at the end of the financial year or be rephased or be reallocated across the forward estimates. Indicate the revised funding profile.</p>	ACMA	18/02/08

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			<p><i>If the above request meets extremely stiff resistance:</i></p> <p>6. On the basis of current projections list the ten biggest expected underspends (appropriately described) against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests)</p> <p>7. Indicate whether these amounts will lapse at the end of the financial year or be rephased or be reallocated and indicate the revised funding profile.</p> <p>8. What transfers of more than \$5m in any one year were made from administered to departmental expenses and from departmental to administered expenses over the past two complete financial years?</p> <p>9. What is the position in 2006-07?</p>		
228	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Has Crosby Textor undertaken any services for ACMA such as market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services?</p> <p>a. If so, what were they?</p> <p>b. When were they undertaken?</p> <p>c. What was the cost?</p> <p>d. Was a report produced?</p> <p>e. If so, would you please table the report?</p> <p>2. Is Crosby Textor undertaking any services for ACMA such as market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services?</p> <p>a. If so, what are they?</p> <p>b. When did they begin?</p> <p>c. Is a report to be produced?</p> <p>d. What is the agreed cost?</p> <p>3. Is Crosby Textor in contract negotiations with ACMA to provide market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services?</p>	ACMA	02/08/07
229	Tabled	Conroy	<p>1. What sum, as a total figure, was spent, or will be spent, on advertising campaigns in:</p> <p>a. 2006-2007; and</p> <p>b. 2007-2008?</p> <p>2. Identifying each campaign by name, what sum was spent on each advertising campaign that forms the basis of the total figure given to the above question in:</p> <p>a. 2006-2007; and</p> <p>b. 2007-2008?</p> <p>3. What was the purpose of the advertising campaigns?</p> <p>4. What was the total estimated budget and breakdown of campaign costs, including market and other research, creative, pre-production, production and media purchasing for:</p> <p>a. Television (TV) placements;</p> <p>b. Radio placements;</p> <p>c. Newspaper placements;</p> <p>d. Mailouts;</p>	ACMA	18/02/08

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			<p>e. Internet; f. Websites; and g. Any other placements?</p> <p>5. On what dates were the individual campaigns identified in the answers to the questions above referred to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communication (MCGC) for approval and on what dates were the necessary approvals granted?</p> <p>6. For campaigns that have already been completed, on what date did the campaigns start and on what date did they finish?</p> <p>7. For campaigns that are currently in progress, on what date did the campaigns start and on what date did they finish?</p> <p>8. For campaigns that are yet to commence, what is the projected date of commencement and anticipated duration of the campaigns?</p> <p>9. For each campaign identified in the answers to questions above, what market research, including opinion polling and evaluation following the conclusion of the campaign (if applicable) was undertaken? a. Have any cost-benefit assessments been done to assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups or other market research?</p> <p>10. For each campaign identified in the answers to the questions above, who was the successful tenderer for: a. The advertising; and b. The market research?</p> <p>11. Please outline the tender process for each campaign identified in the answers to the questions above including: a. The number of tenders received; b. The timeline from when invitations to tender were issued through to the issue of the tender, including the date on which submissions closed and the date on which the decision on the successful tenderer was made; and c. On what basis was the tender given?</p>		
230	Tabled	Brown	<p>1. What assurances can the Minister provide, that Hobart's Radio 7XXX or Radio 2UE do not make further breaches in factual accuracy, such as the one stated in the document above.</p> <p>2. Is the Minister aware of any attempt by Hobart's Radio 7XXX or Radio 2UE to publicly correct their breaches in factual accuracy?</p> <p>3. If not, why were they not asked to do so by ACMA?</p> <p>4. Could the Minister please advise what action is required of the licensee, when it was acknowledged in the above document that; <i>"the licensee has subsequently stated that it intends to take full and proper account of ACMA's decision"</i>.</p> <p>5. Is the Minister aware if the complainant has ever</p>	ACMA	18/02/08

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			received a substantive response, from their initial complaint in 2004? 6. Will the Minister explain why it has taken from September 2004 till December 2006 for the matter to be resolved?		
231	ECITA 45	Nash	Are you aware of how many customers at the moment are on the mobile networks used in regional Australian that are not Telstra customers? It would only be CDMA and not digital that I would be interested in.	Strategic Development and Regional	18/02/08
232	ECITA 51	Fielding	Can I draw your attention to the communications powers in section 51(5). Did the government use that communications power on the issue of internet gambling? Why cannot the government use that same power if they are absolutely serious, as per your statements that the government is committed to doing everything reasonably possible to ensure that all Australians, particularly children, are safe on the internet? Why cannot those same powers be used?	Content and Media	18/02/08
233	ECITA 57	Conroy	Can we get a hard copy of the <i>Report on the review of the Indigenous Broadcasting Program</i> ?	Strategic Development and Regional	07/09/07
234	ECITA 59	Conroy	It is understood that both DCITA and ACMA have been in consultation with the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Victoria, with a view to resolving television black spots in the areas of Kalorama North, Kalorama South and Montrose. Over what period has this consultation occurred?	Content and Media/ ACMA	18/02/08
235	ECITA 65 x-ref ECITA 67, 70	Conroy	Senator CONROY—Whether it is ACCC or ABS, your department has actually passed this information to the OECD at the OECD's request? Ms Holthuyzen—Yes. Mr Besgrove—We have supplied data according to an OECD methodology. It is a methodology which we have had some reservations about and we have certainly conveyed those reservations. But in the interests of collaboration with the OECD we have been supplying data. Senator CONROY—Your department has been forwarding these statistics four times a year since 2001— would that be 24 times? Mr Besgrove—I do not know the answer to that; I will have to take that on notice. I know that we have been supplying data; I do not know with what frequency.	Research, Statistics and Development	18/02/08
236	ECITA 68	Conroy	Senator CONROY - The first time, Mr Besgrove, that you have raised with the OECD, either informally or formally, the department's concerns about methodology was last year, did you say? Mr Besgrove - To the best of my recollection it would have been at the time of the March meeting last year, and I do not recall the precise dates, so we would have to get back to you on that. That reflected some growing concern about the approach the OECD took and the comparability of the information being supplied by different countries.	Access & Consumer	18/02/08
237	ECITA 68	Conroy	Senator CONROY - It is fair to say that, for the preceding number of years, whether it is six or five or four, the department raised no objections?	Access & Consumer	18/02/08

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			Mr Besgrove - If I could clarify my earlier answer, I said that I would have to take that on notice because I did not know the detail of the department's involvement in the preceding years.		
238	ECITA 75	Conroy	Senator CONROY—Can I also have a breakdown of all past and present government contracts with the firm's predecessor, Telsyte.	Legal	18/02/08
239	ECITA 75	Conroy	Senator CONROY - Just reading again from the press statement, the minister says: The Market Clarity report provides a new and robust assessment of Australia's broadband performance. Did the department review this report before the minister made this statement? Ms Holthuyzen - We will have to take it on notice. ack - We would have to take that on notice.	Strategic Development and Regional	18/02/08
240	ECITA 75	Conroy	OECD Report Senator CONROY - Who did you get the briefing from? Senator Coonan - From the principal. Senator CONROY - When was that? Senator Coonan - I cannot remember; a few days beforehand. Senator CONROY - I will follow up after you take that on notice, obviously. Did the department provide any advice to the minister about whether this report was in fact a robust assessment of Australia's broadband performance? Ms Scott - We will take it on notice.	Strategic Development and Regional	18/02/08
241	ECITA 76	Conroy	Senator CONROY—Did anyone in the department or the minister's office contact the OECD to put Market Clarity's criticisms of its broadband data to the organisation? Ms Scott—We will take that on notice because it relates to the earlier questions.	Research, Statistics and Technology	18/02/08
242	ECITA 78	Conroy	Senator CONROY - Is the department aware of research—and this may go to the point—by analysts Parks Associates that finds that Australians are paying no more than an average of 4.6 per cent more for mobile broadband than they will for a fixed connection. Parks Associates broadband analyst, Michael Cai, states that the majority of internet users primarily access the internet at home and work and are unwilling to pay more for a subscription service that they will not use on a frequent basis and that this would seem to indicate that 3G is not a functional substitute for other kinds of primary broadband access. Ms Scott - We might take it on notice. I mean: has the department been aware of a particular report? There may be a person in the department who is aware of this. We will take it on notice to ensure accuracy.	Access and Consumer	18/02/08
243	ECITA 80	Conroy	Number of fixed, wireless and Next G services Going back to what we were discussing earlier for a moment, how many fixed, wireless and Next G services are there? The figure 200,000 has been bandied around so I am just interested – <i>Ms Holthuyzen: I can be corrected on this but I had a feeling something like 80 per cent of the 200,000 might be fixed.</i>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08

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			I am asking how many in number.		
244	ECITA 83	Birmingham	Broadband guarantee How many registered broadband providers are now supplying services under the program? <i>Mr Bryant: We have two parts to the program. The transitional program is operating up till 30 June this year, and that is to enable a smooth transition from the Broadband Connect program to the Australian Broadband Guarantee. We have got, I think, at last count 23 providers who have signed up under that program. We have issued draft guidelines for the final program to start from 1 July and we are expecting to release the final guidelines in the near future.</i> Do you have a regional or state breakdown of those 23?	Infrastructure & Security Division	07/09/07
245	ECITA 85/86	Conroy	I am just asking the officials what the definition of 'regional' was for the purposes of this mail-out. [regarding the Regional Telecommunications Consumer Information Campaign mail-out]	Strategic Development and Regional	18/02/08
246	ECITA 86	Conroy	I am hoping you have perhaps access to the criteria on which you based the mail-out, as opposed to the mailing list itself. [regarding the Regional Telecommunications Consumer Information Campaign mail-out]	Strategic Development and Regional	18/02/08
247	ECITA 87	Conroy	Metro Broadband Connect Would Stirling have been included in the Metro Broadband Connect criteria? I am just wondering whether or not it would have qualified for the Metro Broadband Connect program. Do you think the same suburb would qualify as regional and rural and the Metro Broadband Connect? Would that be an anomaly?	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
248	ECITA 87-88	Conroy	NGN Consultancy Has the department received any correspondence from industry regarding the propriety of the recent award of a contract for consultancy services relating to Next Generation Networks? Access Economics won it. There was a complaint about that one? Could we get a copy of the complaint? Could you provide a copy of the assessment methodology used in the tender process?	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08' + 1 attach't
249	ECITA 90 x-ref tabled	Conroy	Crosby Textor 1. Has Crosby Textor undertaken any services for DCITA such as market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services? a. If so, what were they? b. When were they undertaken? c. What was the cost? d. Was a report produced? e. If so, would you please table the report? 2. Is Crosby Textor undertaking any services for DCITA such as market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services? a. If so, what are they? b. When did they begin? c. Is a report to be produced?	Corporate and Business	08/08/07

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			<p>d. What is the agreed cost?</p> <p>3. Is Crosby Textor in contract negotiations with DCITA to provide market research, public opinion polling, strategic counsel, campaign and communications services, or any other services?</p>		
250	Tabled	Conroy	<p>Advertising Campaigns</p> <p>1. What sum, as a total figure, was spent, or will be spent, on advertising campaigns in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2006-2007; and b. 2007-2008? <p>2. Identifying each campaign by name, what sum was spent on each advertising campaign that forms the basis of the total figure given to the above question in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2006-2007; and b. 2007-2008? <p>3. What was the purpose of the advertising campaigns?</p> <p>4. What was the total estimated budget and breakdown of campaign costs, including market and other research, creative, pre-production, production and media purchasing for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Television (TV) placements; b. Radio placements; c. Newspaper placements; d. Mailouts; e. Internet; f. Websites; and g. Any other placements? <p>5. On what dates were the individual campaigns identified in the answers to the questions above referred to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communication (MCGC) for approval and on what dates were the necessary approvals granted?</p> <p>6. For campaigns that have already been completed, on what date did the campaigns start and on what date did they finish?</p> <p>7. For campaigns that are currently in progress, on what date did the campaigns start and on what date did they finish?</p> <p>8. For campaigns that are yet to commence, what is the projected date of commencement and anticipated duration of the campaigns?</p> <p>9. For each campaign identified in the answers to questions above, what market research, including opinion polling and evaluation following the conclusion of the campaign (if applicable) was undertaken?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Have any cost-benefit assessments been done to assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups or other market research? <p>10. For each campaign identified in the answers to the</p>	Corporate and Business	18/02/08

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			<p>questions above, who was the successful tenderer for:</p> <p>a. The advertising; and</p> <p>b. The market research?</p> <p>11. Please outline the tender process for each campaign identified in the answers to the questions above including:</p> <p>a. The number of tenders received;</p> <p>b. The timeline from when invitations to tender were issued through to the issue of the tender, including the date on which submissions closed and the date on which the decision on the successful tenderer was made; and</p> <p>c. On what basis was the tender given?</p>		
251	ECITA 90	Conroy	<p>FTTN Meetings with Telstra</p> <p>How many times has the department met with Telstra to discuss FTTN and with the minister also present?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
252	ECITA 98	Conroy	<p>ANAO Report – HiBIS and Broadband Connect Stage 1 - Invalid claims</p> <p>How much did BushCom get?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
253	ECITA 101	Conroy	<p>Payments made under HiBIS and Broadband Connect Phase 1</p> <p>Can you tell me the total valid payment made under both HiBIS and Broadband Connect Phase 1?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
254	ECITA 101-102	Conroy	<p>Broadband Connect Infrastructure Program – tender process</p> <p>Can I get an update on where the tender process for the Broadband Connect Infrastructure Program is up to?</p> <p><i>Mr Lyons: that is a decision for the government.</i></p> <p>Have you reached the short-listing process yet?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
255	ECITA 107	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—I have a small number of questions about the impact of the representations made by the government on its policy-making flexibility. What is the impact of Commonwealth representations made in the T3 prospectus? Is the government constrained from acting contrary to these representations?</p> <p>Senator Coonan—That is a legal opinion and we will take it on notice.</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	18/02/08
256	ECITA 108	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—In the government’s view does this statement create the impression that the government will not be undertaking any major regulatory reforms in the telco sector before 2009?</p> <p>Senator Coonan—That requires us to make a subjective judgment and we are not going to do that.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Take that on notice.</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division/Legal	18/02/08
257	Tabled	Conroy	<p>1. For Outcome 1 (rich and stimulating cultural sector), Output 1.1 (cultural activities, national cultural collections, buildings and Indigenous languages) provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>2. For Outcome 2 (<i>stronger and internationally competitive sports sector and participation in sport</i>), Output 2.1 (<i>sports, anti-doping and industry development</i>) provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>3. For Output 3 (<i>sustainable and effective communications sector and internationally competitive</i></p>	Finance and Budgets	18/02/08

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			<p><i>ICT industry</i>), Output 3.1 (<i>telecommunications, broadcasting, postal services</i>) provide the unspent funds against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests.)</p> <p>4. Indicate whether these unspent amounts will lapse at the end of the financial year or be rephased or be reallocated across the forward estimates. Indicate the revised funding profile.</p> <p><i>If the above request meets extremely stiff resistance:</i></p> <p>5. On the basis of current projections list the ten biggest expected underspends (appropriately described) against the 2006-07 budget (including 2006-07 additional estimates and Bill 5 and 6 funding requests)</p> <p>6. Indicate whether these amounts will lapse at the end of the financial year or be rephased or be reallocated and indicate the revised funding profile.</p> <p>7. What transfers of more than \$5m in any one year were made from administered to departmental expenses and from departmental to administered expenses over the past two complete financial years?</p> <p>8. What is the position in 2006-07?</p>		