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ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Television

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Senate Environment, Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts References Committee
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Inquiry into women in sport and recreation in
Australia : Information

The following information addresses questions raised by Committee members during the ABC's appearance at the Sydney hearing on Wednesday 2 August and is provided to assist the Committee in its inquiry.

Cost of Netball Coverage

The total cost of coverage of the 2006 Commonwealth Bank Trophy Netball Season in cash and resources is \$1,459,348.00.

Once a week, on a Friday evening, the ABC provides live coverage of one netball match. Other live matches can often be covered and will be broadcast on a Friday evening or on a Sunday. These live matches are broadcast on ABC2. ABC TV (main channel) broadcasts a one-hour highlights program that covers every match played in the Commonwealth Bank Trophy.

Additional to the costs involved in the Commonwealth Bank Trophy, the total cost of coverage of the International Test Series between Australia and New Zealand in cash and resources was \$303,943.00.

These significant cash and resources allocations must be made to provide high quality multi-camera coverage in venues across Australia and overseas.

Commercial Arrangements between ABC and Netball Australia

The ABC's commercial arrangements with Netball Australia extend no further than an access agreement between both parties. Netball Australia provides access to their various competitions which allow for the ABC coverage. Neither party provides financial consideration as part of this commercial arrangement. As the ABC is the sole provider of funds for the coverage, the ABC retains all copyright in the recordings.

The ABC does not guarantee to broadcast any program, including sport coverage. This is determined by provisions of the ABC Act. The ABC coverage represents significant mainstream free to air television coverage at a time when commercial broadcaster interest is negligible. If any of the sporting organisations that the ABC has arrangements with were to impose an access fee (on top of the ABC's considerable cash and resources commitment), the ABC would have little option but to reduce the coverage, or at worst would not be able to be involved.

Women's Sport Initiatives at the ABC

The ABC will keep the Committee informed of developments in relation to a number of key proposed initiatives in terms of coverage and, in particular, the Woman Broadcaster Internship which was referred to at the hearing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Dalton', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

KIM DALTON
Director of Television