

**Question on notice no. 187**

**Portfolio question number: 187**

**2017-18 Additional estimates**

**Environment and Communications Committee, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

**Senator Sarah Hanson-Young:** asked the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on 27 February 2018—

What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian drama programs for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian children's programming for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian comedy programming for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian factual programming for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

How many hours of first-run Australian drama were broadcast for each for the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

How many hours of first-run Australian children's programming were broadcast for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

How many hours of first-run Australian factual programming were broadcast for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

How many hours of first-run Australian comedy programming were broadcast for each of the past three years? Please provide financial and calendar years?

For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run comedy programming was commissioned from the independent sector? Please provide financial and calendar years?

For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run drama programming was commissioned from the independent sector? Please provide financial and calendar years?

For each of the past three years, what proportion of first-run factual programming was commissioned from the independent sector? Please provide financial and calendar years?

For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run children's programming was commissioned from the independent sector? Please provide financial and calendar years?

**Answer** —

Please see attached.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates February 2018**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 187**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 13/03/2018**

**Topic: Australian Television Content**

**Senator Sarah Hanson-Young asked:**

- 1) What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian drama programs for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 2) What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian children's programming for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 3) What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian comedy programming for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 4) What has been the expenditure on first-run Australian factual programming for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 5) How many hours of first-run Australian drama were broadcast for each for the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 6) How many hours of first-run Australian children's programming were broadcast for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 7) How many hours of first-run Australian factual programming were broadcast for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 8) How many hours of first-run Australian comedy programming were broadcast for each of the past three years?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 9) For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run comedy programming was commissioned from the independent sector?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 10) For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run drama programming was commissioned from the independent sector?
  - a. Please provide financial and calendar years

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

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**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

- 11) For each of the past three years, what proportion of first-run factual programming was commissioned from the independent sector?
- a. Please provide financial and calendar years
- 12) For each of the past three years, what percentage of first-run children's programming was commissioned from the independent sector?
- a. Please provide financial and calendar years?

**Answer:**

Please note that the answers to questions 1 to 12 exclude news and current affairs programs, hours and expenditure. Also note that the ABC records and provides this information by financial year only. It would require additional time and resources to provide this information on a calendar year basis.

1)

<b>Drama Total (ACMA Definition*) expenditure (excluding labour)</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Drama (incl Indigenous Drama)	\$35,732,704	\$36,247,667	\$27,263,228
Narrative Comedy	\$8,023,257	\$8,965,436	\$9,390,957
<b>Drama Total</b>	<b>\$43,755,961</b>	<b>\$45,213,102</b>	<b>\$36,654,185</b>

2)

<b>Children's expenditure (excluding labour)</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Childrens	\$16,672,739	\$16,991,480	\$13,499,940
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$16,672,739</b>	<b>\$16,991,480</b>	<b>\$13,499,940</b>

- 3) The expenditure for the first-run Australian comedy programming has been outlined in the answer to question 1.

4)

<b>Factual and Documentaries expenditure (excluding labour)</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Documentaries	\$6,811,584	\$8,766,546	\$10,278,150
Factual	\$2,516,237	\$2,838,850	\$5,546,235
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,327,822</b>	<b>\$11,605,396</b>	<b>\$15,824,384</b>

5)

<b>Drama Total (ACMA Definition*) First Run Australian Hours Broadcast</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15**</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Drama (incl Indigenous Drama)	51	45	40
Narrative Comedy	24	22	20
<b>Drama Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>

\*\*Please note that 2014/15 does not include iview programming.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

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**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

6)

<b>Childrens First Run Australian Linear Hours Broadcast</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Childrens	374	316	342
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>342</b>

*\*Australian Premiere hours on ABC3 may include content produced by News*

7)

<b>Factual First Run Australian Linear Hours Broadcast</b>			
<b>Content Unit</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Documentary	56	43	49
Factual	168	89	61
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>110</b>

8) The total hours of first-run Australian comedy programming has been outlined in the answer to question 5.

9) The percentage of first-run comedy programming commissioned with the independent sector has been outlined in the answer to question 10.

10)

<b>Drama Total (ACMA Definition*) Commissioned Linear - External Programs (Incl Indigenous Drama &amp; Narrative Comedy)</b>		
<b>Fin. Yr Comm'd</b>	<b>Total No. of Programs</b>	<b>Total TV Hours</b>
2016/17	100%	100%
2015/16	100%	100%
2014/15	100%	100%

<b>Factual Commissioned Linear - External Programs</b>		
<b>Fin. Yr Comm'd</b>	<b>Total No. of Programs</b>	<b>Total TV Hours</b>
2016/17	11%	1%
2015/16	0%	0%
2014/15	0%	0%

11)

<b>Documentary Commissioned Linear - External Programs</b>		
<b>Fin. Yr Comm'd</b>	<b>Total No. of Programs</b>	<b>Total TV Hours</b>
2016/17	92%	98%
2015/16	97%	99%
2014/15	93%	96%

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12).

<b>Children's Commissioned Linear - External Programs</b>		
<b>Fin. Yr Comm'd</b>	<b>Total No. of Programs</b>	<b>Total TV Hours</b>
2016/17	68%	17%
2015/16	59%	29%
2014/15	50%	13%

**Footnote**

\*The ACMA definition of an Australian drama program from page 5, Part 2, Section 6 from the Broadcasting Services (Australian Content) Standard 2016 states an ***Australian drama program***:

(a) means an Australian program that:

(i) has a fully scripted screenplay in which the dramatic elements of character, theme and plot are introduced and developed to form a narrative structure; or

(ii) has a partially scripted screenplay in which the dramatic elements of character, theme and plot are introduced and developed to form a narrative structure and has actors delivering improvised dialogue that is based on a script outline or outlines developed by a writer or writers; or

(iii) has actors delivering improvised dialogue that is based on a script outline or outlines, developed by a writer or writers, in which the dramatic elements of character, theme and plot are introduced and developed to form a narrative structure; and

(b) includes a fully scripted sketch comedy program, animated drama or dramatised documentary;

(c) does not include:

(i) a program, or a segment of a program, that involves the incidental use of actors; or

(ii) an Australian children's drama.