

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 220

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Australia Network

Senator Urquhart asked:

In relation to Australia Network, presumably the provision of AN's service is intertwined with Radio Australia and other parts of the ABC, that there are resources, including staff, which are shared:

- a. What would the impact be on jobs and resources at the ABC if Australia Network was taken off the ABC or shut down?
- b. How many jobs only involved in Australia Network would be cut?
- c. What would be the impact on Radio Australia, and what would be the impact on all other parts of the ABC?
- d. What would be the impact of this on each state?

Answer:

- a. ABC International is the division responsible for delivering the ABC's international broadcasting services. It has a market, as opposed to platform, orientated structure. Accordingly, internal resources are neither dedicated to Australia Network nor to Radio Australia exclusively.

Section 6 (ii) (b) of *the ABC Act 1983* also provides that the Corporation must broadcast internationally programs of news, current affairs, entertainment and cultural enrichment. Should the service be subject to budget cuts, the ABC would give due consideration as to how it would meet its Charter responsibilities.

- c-d. There are currently 177 staff working in ABC International and 46 journalists working in the Asia Pacific News Centre in Melbourne, which delivers news content to ABC International. As noted at (a) above, should the service be subject to budget cuts, the ABC would have to give due consideration to how it would meet its Charter responsibilities.