

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 117

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 130, 24/05/2017

Topic: Major Platform Cost

Senator ROBERTS, Malcolm asked:

Senator ROBERTS: How many people are employed in radio and what is the budget for radio?

Ms Guthrie: Again, we will have to take that on notice.

Senator ROBERTS: That is fine. Can you tell me how many people are employed in TV and what is the budget for TV? How many people are employed in the internet—from the ABC, that is—and what is the budget for the internet?

Ms Guthrie: We do not have specific divisions that are done on that basis. Again, I think we will take that on notice and provide you some information.

Senator ROBERTS: Perhaps you could help me to understand—

Ms Guthrie: There is no internet division. There is a television division and there is a radio division but not a—

Senator ROBERTS: The internet just sort of marries in between the two, or some radio goes to internet and some TV goes to internet?

Ms Guthrie: That is correct.

Senator ROBERTS: I would like to get an understanding of what the three major platforms cost. Is that possible?

Ms Guthrie: Again, we will have to take that on notice. You are interested in total salaries or all costs?

Senator ROBERTS: I would like to know the total costs. I do not need the salaries in each area. I would just like to know the total costs for each area. We have discussed costs broadly. I would now like to move to ABC functions and responsibilities. As well as protecting the public purse, a senator's role is concerned with ensuring respect for public policy process—in other words, it is not just the amount of money; it is the effectiveness and transparency of the spending. Would you agree with that?

Ms Guthrie: Yes.

Answer:

There are 491.3 full time equivalent (FTE) employees in the ABC's Radio team. The 2016-17 budget for the Radio team is \$60.8 million.

There are 426 FTE employees in the ABC's Television team. The 2016-17 budget for the Television team is \$187.3 million.

The ABC does not have an 'Internet' division, however there are 198.1 FTE employees who work in online content teams. The 2016-17 budget for the online content teams is \$37.8 million.