

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates May 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 65**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Hansard Ref: Page 94, 24/05/2017**

**Topic: Sponsorship**

**Senator Abetz, Eric asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** But have you bought tables to which you then invite non-SBS personnel?

**Mr Ebeid:** Probably from time to time, absolutely.

**Senator ABETZ:** Can you give me an example of one?

**Mr Ebeid:** Not off the top of my head.

**Senator ABETZ:** Was there a function in 2015 with the Egyptian-Australian society or the Australian-Egyptian society?

**Mr Ebeid:** Probably.

**Senator ABETZ:** Probably?

**Mr Ebeid:** Yes.

**Senator ABETZ:** Do you recall that?

**Mr Ebeid:** Yes, I do.

**Senator ABETZ:** Was that sponsored in any way by SBS?

**Mr Ebeid:** No. I will take it on notice, but not that I recall. I will take it on notice. I will double check. I would not want to give you the wrong answer.

**Senator ABETZ:** All right. If you can advise whether tables were bought and, if so, whom the guests were. We do not need to know names, but if they were non-SBS personnel and the extent of that sponsorship—

**Mr Ebeid:** Sure.

**Answer:**

In 2015, SBS paid for one ticket, at a cost of \$70.00, for Mr Ebeid to attend a Gala dinner organised by the Australian Egyptian Council Forum. SBS did not sponsor this event, nor did any other SBS employees attend, nor did SBS invite any guests to the event.