

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: 212

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Hansard Ref: Page 108 (25/2/2014)

Topic: Television Production

Senator Urquhart asked:

At the November 2013 estimates you said that the ABC has TV production facilities in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide only. You also said that the ABC Director of Television was in Tasmania in early November holding briefings with the independent production sector and that there were programs being made with the independent production sector in Tasmania, which you just refer to. Can you provide the committee with an update of these discussions with the Tasmanian independent sector and outline any Tasmanian projects that are underway and that are planned?

Mr Scott: Let me take that on notice, if I can.

Senator Urquhart: In November you also said that the director of ABC TV was going to be visiting all states and territories to talk to the independent production sector. Tasmania was the first. Which cities has that director visited to meet with those production sectors since November 2013?

Mr Scott: I can give you a report on that. I think he went everywhere. A number of our senior television executives did, and we really do enjoy the opportunity of working with talent all around the country.

Senator Urquhart: Was Brisbane visited?

Mr Scott: Yes, I believe he went to all the state capitals.

Senator Urquhart: Did he visit Cairns and Townsville?

Mr Scott: I am not sure about that. I will have to check.

Senator Urquhart: Perhaps you could take all that on notice and let us know where they went and what the outcomes in each of those cities are. That would be good.

Mr Scott: Yes.

Answer:

ABC Television currently has four projects underway in Tasmania that will air in late 2014 and 2015. ABC Television is currently discussing two further potential television projects to be produced in Tasmania. These projects are yet to be commissioned.

Richard Finlayson, the newly appointed Director of ABC Television, held briefings with ABC Television staff and the television production industry in Hobart on 31 October 2013, Sydney on 2 December 2013, Melbourne on 3 December 2013, Perth on 10 December 2013 and Adelaide on 12 December 2013.

The briefings provided an opportunity to discuss ABC television programs and programs that ABC television is looking to commission. They also provided an opportunity for a range of independent producers to meet and hear from the new Director directly and make further contacts within the ABC.