

27 October 2017



ABC

Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Senattor Jonathan Duniam
Committee Member
Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Email: Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au

Office of the
Managing Director

ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel. +61 2 8333 5342
Fax. +61 2 8333 5172
abc.net.au

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your letter of 4 September regarding *Ramp Up*. Please accept my apologies for the delay in the following responses to your questions:

- What was the cost of developing and maintaining the *Ramp Up* disability website portal?

ABC *Ramp Up* was funded through a grant from the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). The grant was for \$557,500 and covered the period from 10 May 2010 to 30 June 2012. Operationally, the grant was \$250,000 per year for two years plus \$57,500 set up costs. This contract was acquitted with approximately \$16,000 repaid to FaHCSIA.

A second grant of \$557,700 from FaHSCIA was disbursed to the ABC for the maintenance of *Ramp Up*, covering the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014.

In January 2014, the then Assistant Minister for Social Services informed the ABC that the government would not provide further funding for the service. After the exhaustion of funds on 30 June 2014, no new *Ramp Up* material was published and the site was archived.

- How many staff were employed to run this portal?

At the time of its cessation the portal was run by 1.4 full time equivalent employees.

- What consultation did the ABC undertake prior to disabling the website portal?

The *Ramp Up* editor consulted with disability stakeholder groups prior to the termination of the service and the ABC also consulted more broadly with the relevant ministers and government departments.



In early June 2014, the ABC advised the *Ramp Up* audience that the service would not be maintained after 30 June 2014 due to the exhaustion of government funding (<http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2014/06/05/4019585.html>).

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Guthrie
Managing Director