

Department of Communications and the Arts

Hansard Ref: Written, 01/02/2018

Topic: Communications Legislation Amendment (Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund) Bill 2017

Senator Anne Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: What, if any, review mechanisms apply to the fund and its administration?

Mr PENPRASE: There is a review intended after a 12-month period.

Senator URQUHART: Each 12 months?

Mr PENPRASE: No. There is one that's planned for after the first round. The first year of funding would be through and then – I haven't got the details in front of me – I think that within a set period after the end of the first 12 months of the fund there will be a review conducted to basically see how it's going.

Senator URQUHART: When's the first one due?

Answer:

There will be an independent review of the Innovation Fund after its first 12 months of operation, which will be the 2018-19 financial year. This review will be completed within four months, by no later than 31 October 2019. The review will be commissioned by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and it is expected that the ACMA will engage an independent consultant to support this work.