

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 399

Topic: Communications staff

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Smith asked:

Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?

Answer:

The Department has a radio studio that is used for recording phone interviews and cutting audio material. There are no broadcasts from the studio.

The in-house studio provides the capacity to cost-effectively record and do some post-production of audio files for use in the Department's communication, particularly for programs targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences.

The studio was established in mid-2009 at a total cost of \$88,420.50 (ex GST). This includes:

- \$66,016.50, for construction of the studio;
- \$7,090.00 for equipment and materials;
- \$8,750.00 for software; and
- \$6,564.00 for installation and technical assistance.

There are no on-going costs for the up-keep of the studio.

FaHCSIA produces radio content for Indigenous community radio stations. The programs profile Indigenous communities, achievements and topics of interest to Australia's Indigenous people.

The programs are written and recorded in-house, with post-production contracted outside of the Department. The content is available as a downloadable podcast on both Indigenous.gov.au and iTunes. Indigenous community radio stations are notified of content and its availability.

There is currently one staff member working parttime on the production of radio. The staff member is at the Public Affairs Officer 2 level (APS 6 equivalent).