

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: 227

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Reviews

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a. the date they were ordered
 - b. the date they commenced
 - c. the minister responsible
 - d. the Department responsible
 - e. the nature of the review
 - f. their terms of reference
 - g. the scope of the review
 - h. Whom is conducting the review
 - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j. the expected report date
 - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g. If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the Department
 - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
3. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?
 - a. Please list them.
 - b. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

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4. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
 - a. When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c. When will government respond to each review?
 - d. Will the government release each review?
 - i. If so, when?
 - ii. If not, why not?

Answer

1. The ABC has commissioned three reviews since November 2013.

	Online and Mobile Strategy	Editorial review – Asylum Seekers	Editorial review – Election Coverage
a)	The review was ordered on 12 November 2013.	The review was ordered in January 2014.	The review was ordered in October 2013.
b)	See above at a).	See above at a).	See above at a).
c)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
d)	The review was commissioned by the ABC.	The review was commissioned by the ABC.	The review was commissioned by the ABC.
e)	To review the organisational approach to delivering the ABC's online and mobile strategic objectives.	To conduct an independent review into the ABC's editorial performance. The review focussed on the breadth and impartiality of asylum seeker coverage on ABC TV News and Current Affairs programs 7.30 and <i>Lateline</i> .	To conduct an independent review into the ABC's editorial performance. The review focused on the impartiality of ABC Radio Interviews with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition during the 2013 Election Campaign.
f)	See above at e).	See above at e).	See above at e).
g)	See above at e).	See above at e).	See above at e).
h)	LEK Consulting.	Gerald Stone Productions Pty Ltd.	A Wills (Andrea Wills).
i)	See above at h).	See above at h).	See above at h).
j)	February 2014.	March 2014.	March 2014.
k)	Total expenditure was \$76,290 (ex GST), which is inclusive of \$1,290 in expenses.	Total expenditure was \$30,000 (ex GST).	Total expenditure was \$17,241 (ex GST).
l)	No.	Yes.	Yes.

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2.

	Online and Mobile Strategy	Editorial review – Asylum Seekers	Editorial review – Election Coverage
a)	See above at 1.	See above at 1.	See above at 1.
b)	Simon Barrett is a Partner and the Regional Head of Asia at LEK Consulting	Gerald Stone is an independent editorial consultant.	Andrea Wills is an independent editorial consultant.
c)	See above at 1k).	See above at 1k).	See above at 1k).
d)	LEK Consulting are completing the review on behalf of the ABC.	Gerald Stone completed the review on behalf of the ABC.	Andrea Wills completed the review on behalf of the ABC.
e)	No.	No.	No.
f)	None.	None.	None.
g)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
h)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

3.

- a. In October 2013, the ABC commenced a Red Tape Review to identify processes and practices across the ABC that are unnecessarily bureaucratic or represent a duplication of activities. This review is ongoing. The aim of the review is to recommend and implement more streamlined processes and/or automation where possible.
 - b. This is an internal review and existing ABC resources have been allocated to complete the project.
4. No reviews have been paused or ceased since the Supplementary Budget Estimates.
 5. See above at 1 and 2.
 6. Not applicable.
 7. Not applicable.
 8. The ABC regularly reviews its operational requirements as part of its annual budget allocation process, with a mind to operating efficiently.