

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 44

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 102, 24/02/2015

Topic: Regional Division

Senator McKenzie asked:

Senator McKENZIE: When you said you can pull the figure out—

Mr Scott: I will have to get that for you. I do not have that on me now.

Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. I look forward to that. How much funding is allocated to run ABC Open in the Regional Division?

Mr Scott: I do not have the precise figure for ABC Open. It is several million dollars. One of the things that we are looking to do is to think through how we best deliver those services. One of the things that I want the Regional Division to look at is that there are 400 staff in our regional offices. Some are in radio, some are in news, some are rural, some are radio multiplatform, some are designated originally ABC Open. How do you best deploy those staff and how are they best utilised? ABC Open has brought some significant benefits back to the ABC and to our audiences, but how do they work with the radio multiplatform people and how do they work with the rest of the provision in regional? So we are looking at how that is best deployed.

Senator McKENZIE: For the rural services for ABC Open and for ABC Local Radio, I am interested in how much you are going to allocate for those under the Regional Division, but I also want to know how much you currently spend on each of those aspects?

Mr Scott: In the first instance, it is going to be what we currently spend.

Senator McKENZIE: What do you currently spend?

Mr Scott: I do not have the breakdown of that detail here.

Senator McKENZIE: Does anyone at the table at a budget estimates hearing have the breakdown for how much ABC Local radio services' spend is, currently?

Mr Pendleton: Open is about 8.4.

Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. ABC Local?

Mr Pendleton: ABC Local is probably a little bit harder.

Mr Scott: It is just the way we are cutting budgets at the moment and it is the way we are going to cut budgets. As Mr Pendleton looks, I can say that at this point we do not have additional money to invest in regional. What we are firstly looking to do is to see how we organise that current level of investment of the 400 staff.

Mr Pendleton: ABC local radio budget is about 66—which covers the metros as well, unfortunately—and our rural. I would probably need to do it on notice, Senator.

Senator McKENZIE: Could you please split the metros out of ABC local radio? Could you also break it down by state and territory?

Mr Pendleton: Yes, I can definitely do it, but on notice.

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Answer

The 2014-15 budget for ABC Local Radio is **\$24.6m**. This figure excludes metro stations (including the ACT) and ABC Open but includes Rural, Sport and National Interest Initiatives (NII). A breakdown by State and Territory is as follows:

ABC Local Radio Budget 2014/15 (includes Sport, Rural, & NII)

	2014/15 \$000's
New South Wales	7,453
Northern Territory	1,127
Queensland	6,763
South Australia	1,791
Tasmania	1,143
Victoria	2,848
Western Australia	3,520
Grand Total	24,644