

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 43**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 64-65, 9/02/2016**

**Topic: Reduction in content budget for ABC TV**

**Senator Ludlum, Scott asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** I wish you well in whatever comes next. I have a couple of questions that follow up on some work that Senator Milne did three or four years ago. It is around comparing the 2012-13 financial year figures with those for 2013-14 and then 2014-15. I am looking for whether or not there has been a continued reduction in the content budget for ABC TV; and, if so, what the amounts are for each year. You might want to take that on notice.

**Mr Scott:** We will take that on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** If you can speak to trend, I would appreciate that.

**Mr Scott:** Yes, we will take that on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Can you at least give us some comments on trend?

**Mr Scott:** Well, yes, we did pull some money out of television last year, on the back of the budget cuts, because we needed to invest more in digital. I think, if you take the long view of television, certainly, we put more money into drama and, certainly, we put more money into children's television; but, in the last few years, there has been some consolidation.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Okay. I guess I was not looking at the long-run trend—more just since the 2012-13 financial year, which was what Senator Milne asked about previously. Have there been specific reductions since then in the budgets for drama, children's programming or documentaries?

**Mr Scott:** Yes. We can give you the breakdown on notice.

**Answer:**

ABC Television Documentary budgets increased by \$0.2 million in 2012-13 to 2013-14 and then decreased by \$0.8 million in 2013-14 to 2014-15.

ABC Children's Television budgets reduced by \$5.1 million in 2012-13 to 2013-14 and increased by \$0.4 million in 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Budgets for ABC Television drama reduced by \$1.6 million in 2012-13 to 2013-14 and a further \$2.1 million in 2013-14 to 2014-15.