

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates February 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 104**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 99, 28/02/2017**

**Topic: Audio description service on iView**

**Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:**

**Senator SIEWERT:** How much would it cost across the ABC to implement a permanent audio description service on its catch-up platform, iView?

**Mr Millett:** I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the information.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Is that part of the report? I am serious. I am not trying to be stupid or silly here.

**Mr Millett:** The report went to a specific trial, over a specific period involving a specific number of hours.

**Mr Pendleton:** At a fixed cost.

**Mr Millett:** Your question is a more general one, isn't it?

**Senator SIEWERT:** Yes. You will take it on notice?

**Mr Millett:** Yes.

**Ms Guthrie:** I am not try to be unhelpful, but the number of programs that are on iview over time changes substantially. We could provide essentially some sense of cost per hour, but not based on the number of hours that might be available on iview.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Cost per hour would be helpful.

**Answer:**

Based on the two trials it has conducted, the ABC has made an estimation of the initial capital expenditure required to establish a permanent audio description service as well as the ongoing annual operational costs for the service and has shared this with government.

However, the ABC has not gone to market for a permanent audio description service. Accordingly, the publication of this information would put the ABC at a commercial disadvantage and would not be in the public interest.