

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: 106

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 101, 28/02/2017

Topic: Scientific expertise

Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:

Senator LUDLAM: What is the net loss or gain of scientific expertise within the ABC as a result of these decisions?

Ms Guthrie: Eight ongoing positions were made redundant, and seven temporary positions were also affected. But it is very important to us to make sure that we work with the scientific community to deliver those 17 hours of programming.

Senator LUDLAM: I was not talking about hours; I was talking about expertise. So, between full-time and part-time, it sounds like 15, as a net loss.

Ms Guthrie: There were eight ongoing positions made redundant, yes.

Mr Millett: But it was the digital capabilities hired as a result of that—

Senator LUDLAM: Yes, I am trying to get a—

Mr Millett: We can probably take on notice to come back with a more concise—

Senator LUDLAM: And an estimated staff time—when people can expect to actually see staff—would be helpful too, if you could take that on notice.

Ms Guthrie: Definitely this year.

Senator LUDLAM: Yes, I figured that. If you could give us at least within the nearest month, that would be handy...

Answer:

1. The following table lists Catalyst production staff in 2016 and 2017. The program will also include approximately 13 presenters and 20 scientific guests in the 2017 series. In comparison, the 2016 series included five presenters and six scientific guests.

Category	Position	2016	2017
Ongoing	Executive Producer	0	1
	Senior Producer	1	1
Run of Show	Director/Producers	7	14
	Development Producers	0	2
	Researchers	5	7
	Senior Production Manager	0	1
	Junior Production Manager	1	1
	Production Coordinator	1	1

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Category	Position	2016	2017
Casuals	Shooter/Producers	0	4
Total		15	32

In addition, in 2017 Catalyst will also include seven additional staff for digital programming – three science presenters and four production staff.

2. Ongoing staff have been recruited for the program and it is expected that the first episodes will go to air in August 2017.