

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 16**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Local Content**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

In the February 2014 Estimates, I asked about what measures the ABC has in place to ensure funding and resources are not biased towards NSW, given the Director of News, who has responsibility for news expenditure is based in NSW.

1. While I was assured that Resourcing decisions for ABC News operations were not affected by the location of the Director of News could you inform me of the specific measures in place to guarantee this?
2. Do local staff have the opportunity to provide input to funding decisions on a state by state basis?

**Answer:**

1. ABC News has newsrooms in every capital city and regional offices across Australia working to produce a range of national radio and television programs. Additionally, ABC News has 11 international news bureaux and a significant online news operation.

The resourcing of the capital city newsrooms and the regional newsrooms are benchmarked against each other to ensure they have adequate resources for producing the programs and content required of them.

2. Each State and Territory has a News Editor, a senior executive who is part of the editorial and resources leadership of the News Division. These News Editors represent the interests of their own operations in discussions of resource allocation.