

**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: 4**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 55 28/5/2014**

**Topic: Chris Kenny**

**Senator Seselja asked:**

**Senator SESELJA:** I go back to the Chris Kenny defamation action. Have the producers of the *Hamster Decides* been indemnified by the ABC?

**Mr Scott:** I will have to check that. There are a series of contractual relationships that go with the production of comedies like that. I will need to check that and get that.

**Senator SESELJA:** Would it be your expectation that they would be?

**Mr Scott:** Yes. I suspect so. That would be a fairly standard term in most of our contractual arrangements, because fundamentally it is the ABC that makes the decision to put these things to air. The ABC has the responsibility to approve or not approve content and so finally we wear that responsibility.

**Answer:**

Yes, this is a standard practice in contracts of this nature.