

**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: 53**

**Program No.: Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. Since 25 February 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
  - a. the date they were ordered
  - b. the date they commenced
  - c. the minister responsible
  - d. the Department responsible
  - e. the nature of the review
  - f. their terms of reference
  - g. the scope of the review
  - h. Whom is conducting the review
  - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
  - j. the expected report date
  - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
  - l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered since 25 February 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
  - a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
  - b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
  - c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
  - d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
  - e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
  - f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
  - g. If yes, for each, who selected them
  - h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
    - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
    - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
    - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
    - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the Department
    - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
3. Since 25 February 2014, what reviews are on-going?
  - a. Please list them.

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- b. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
- 4. Since 25 February 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
- 5. Since 25 February 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
- 6. Since 25 February 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
- 7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- 8. What reviews are planned?
  - a. When will each planned review be commenced?
  - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
  - c. When will government respond to each review?
  - d. Will the government release each review?
    - i. If so, when?
    - ii. If not, why not?

**Answer**

1. As at May 28 2014, the ABC commissioned two reviews since February 2014:

	<b>Support Services Review</b>	<b>Editorial review – Story/issue choices on selected ABC radio morning programs</b>
<b>a)</b>	The review was ordered in April 2014.	The review was ordered in April 2014.
<b>b)</b>	See above at a).	See above at a).
<b>c)</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
<b>d)</b>	The review was commissioned by the ABC.	The review was commissioned by the ABC.
<b>e)</b>	To explore the quantum of savings within the support functions across the entire organisation and determine areas of savings.	To conduct an independent review into the ABC's editorial performance. The review focused on the range, diversity and appropriateness of the issues focussed on by a representative sample of ABC metropolitan and regional local radio morning programs during selected days over a four week period in March 2014.
<b>f)</b>	See above at e).	See above at e).
<b>g)</b>	See above at e).	See above at e).
<b>h)</b>	PwC	Graham Mott
<b>i)</b>	See above at h). No officers were involved in the review; it was completed by consultants.	See above at h).
<b>j)</b>	June 2014.	August 2014 (anticipated).
<b>k)</b>	Total expenditure was \$367,400 (ex GST).	Total expenditure is anticipated to be approximately \$30,000 (ex GST).
<b>l)</b>	No.	Yes.

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2.

	<b>Support Services Review</b>	<b>Editorial review – Story/issue choices on selected ABC radio morning programs</b>
<b>a)</b>	See above at 1(h).	See above at 1(h).
<b>b)</b>	Luke Sayers is the CEO of PwC Australia and the Vice Chairman of PwC Asia.	Graham Mott is an independent editorial consultant.
<b>c)</b>	See above at 1k).	See above at 1k).
<b>d)</b>	PwC are completing the review on behalf of the ABC.	Graham Mott is completing the review on behalf of the ABC.
<b>e)</b>	No.	No.
<b>f)</b>	None.	None.
<b>g)</b>	The ABC issued a Request for Quotation to three firms, from which PwC were selected as the successful service provider.	Not applicable.
<b>h)</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

3.

a) As at 28 May 2014, both the Support Services Review and the Editorial Review were ongoing.

b) See above at 3a.

4. No reviews have been paused or ceased since Budget Estimates in May 2014.

5. See above at 1 and 2.

6. Nil.

7. Not applicable.

8. The ABC regularly reviews its operational requirements as part of its annual budget allocation process, with a mind to operating efficiently.