

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 586**

**Program No. 1.3**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Community Broadcasting Program**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

In the National Commission of Audit report (Appendix 2) it was recommended that the Community Broadcasting program be abolished. The report noted “The Commonwealth Government already provides over \$1billion per annum to the operation of the public broadcasters. There is a limited rationale for the Commonwealth to also subsidise community radio services. Continued government funding of this area does not meet the Report’s principles of good governance.” Has the Department reviewed the Community Broadcast program in response to the Commission of Audit?

**Answer:**

The Government released a response to the Commission of Audit in the budget context. In relation to grant programmes, the response stated:

“Initial reforms to grant programmes are in the 2014-15 Budget with further reforms to be considered following the Budget”.

In the Budget \$17.3m was provided to the community broadcasting sector in 2014-15. A review of funding arrangements is not currently planned.