

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: 92

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing reductions

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 25 February 2014 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
3. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
6. How many ongoing staff left the Department/Agency from 25 February 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left Department/Agency from 25 February 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
8. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
9. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
10. How is the Department/Agency funding the packages?

Answer:

As at 30 June 2014:

1. There were 11 redundancies from 25 February 2014 to 30 June 2014.
2. The ABC does not distinguish between voluntary and involuntary redundancies.
3. In the 2014 Federal Budget, DFAT terminated its contract with the ABC for delivery of an integrated multiplatform international media service and discontinued funding for the same. Following a strategic review of the ABC's International media service a new model has been developed to best meet the ABC's international broadcasting responsibilities under the ABC Charter. As a result, the ABC anticipates staff reductions will be necessary and is planning consultations with affected employees and their representatives.
4. Refer to the answer to question 3 above.
5. The ABC does not distinguish between voluntary and involuntary redundancies. However, in relation to the proposed redundancies referred to in question 3, the ABC is currently consulting with staff and relevant unions regarding the proposed involuntary redundancy selection process.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

6-7. Of the 11 redundancies from 25 February 2014 to 30 June 2014, 10 were ongoing employees and one was non-ongoing.

Classification	Total
Admin/Professional Band 7	3
Admin/Professional Band 8	1
Content Maker Band 5	1
Content Maker Band 7	1
Senior Executive Level 3	2
Shop Assistant	2
Shop Manager Grade D	1
Grand Total	11

8-9. Redundancy packages are offered in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Enterprise Agreement:

ABC Enterprise Agreement 2013-2016 for Content Makers, and Admin/Professionals

ABC Senior Employment Agreement for Senior Executives

ABC Retail Agreement 2013-2016 for Retail staff

10. The ABC funded these redundancies internally, with the relevant division required to fund redundancy related costs.