

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 15

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 27/5/2015

Topic: ABC Board Appointments

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

A board vacancy is also reportedly coming up soon. Can you please advise the Committee when the next vacancy will have to be filled? And the one after that?

Will the Government give serious consideration to appointing a Board member from South Australia, as currently there is not one from SA and SA has been – by the admission of the MD – the hardest hit in the latest cuts to the ABC, in terms of job losses and loss of content production.

Answer:

One non-executive Director position on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Board became vacant on 3 June 2015. Another non-executive Director position will become vacant on 24 November 2015.

A selection process for these positions is currently being undertaken by an independent Nomination Panel (the Panel), in accordance with the provisions in Part IIIA of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*.

A public application period seeking expressions of interest for these positions commenced on 29 May 2015 and closed on 19 June 2015.

At the end of the selection process the Panel will provide a written report to the Minister for Communications recommending at least three candidates for each vacancy. Following Government consideration, the Minister will recommend two persons to the Governor-General for appointment as non-executive Directors to the ABC Board.

The Australian Government values the principles of diversity and inclusion with respect to the composition of Australian Government boards. In line with policy, the Government will give due regard to geographical balance and gender balance in relation to the vacancies on the ABC Board.

There are currently two non-executive Directors on the ABC that have terms that expire in June 2016. In the event that the incumbents are not reappointed, it is expected that the same selection process as outlined above would be used to identify suitable candidates for appointment.