

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 124

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 26/05/2017

Topic: Journalists and Presenters - Vacancies

Senator Williams, John asked:

In relation to a notice on the ABC website (21/3/17) advertising vacancies for journalists and presenters at Mildura, Tamworth and Toowoomba, the advertisement indicated the vacancy was open only to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

1. How many applications were received for each position?
2. Of the applicants, how many identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander descent.
3. For those who identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, how was this verified by the ABC to ensure the strict guidelines were met?
4. Were the positions filled by people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent?
5. If in the above situation where there are no applicants or suitable applicants under the guidelines, are applications invited from other sections of the community or are the positions left vacant?

Answer:

The three Indigenous targeted positions were initially listed on the ABC Careers webpage on 28 April as based in Mildura, Tamworth and Toowoomba. This was amended to Cairns, Tamworth, and Toowoomba on 1 May 2017.

1. Two applications for the three positions were received in total. One applicant stated a preference for the Tamworth placement. The other applicant did not identify a preferred location.
2. Both applicants identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
3. The two applications were considered against the advertised selection criteria for the roles, however both candidates were unable to demonstrate they met the specific requirements of the role at the level required. As neither applicant was deemed suitable for the advertised roles, no further verification was required.
4. The positions currently remain vacant and were re-advertised in June 2017. The re-advertised positions are now open to all applicants.
5. See response to question 4 above.