

**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: 127**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 29/05/2017**

**Topic: ASL level staff**

**Senator Abetz, Eric asked:**

The Portfolio Budget Statement reveals that there have been around 50 fewer staff employed over the last year, at least on an ASL level.

- (a) What have the efficiency savings been?
- (b) How have those savings been used?
- (c) If the ABC can find savings of this magnitude to pursue other projects, has any thought been given to providing a dividend to consolidated revenue?

**Answer:**

- (a) The ABC has implemented a new streamlined leadership team and structure, reduced management by 20 per cent and addressed duplication in support roles.
- (b) Savings made from the reduction in the ABC's ASL will contribute towards a new Content Fund, with an estimated \$20 million available in 2017-18, eventually growing to \$50 million. The Content Fund will have regional investment as a priority, with up to 80 new content roles in regional areas.
- (c) The ABC undertakes savings efficiencies and returns monies to consolidated revenue. In 2017-18, savings in excess of \$50 million will be returned to consolidated revenue.