

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 562**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Redundancies**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

I am inviting you to take it on notice and get back to us as soon as you can. It is proposed that there be 22 redundancies out of the Adelaide production unit. South Australia has been cut the deepest of all, hasn't it, in terms of production? You are getting rid of 100 per cent of that production unit.

Mr Scott: No, I do not think so. We are following the guidelines that have long been agreed on in our industrial agreement. We have dual responsibilities here: we want to treat our staff fairly and well but we also want to ensure, after our staff go—and we are going to lose about 10 per cent of our staff—that we are still in the best position with our networks, with our programs, with our production teams to be able to put out the content that people want. We still need to be able to deliver the ABC services. So to ask the question, 'What skills do we need and how do we ensure that the staff who are left have those skills,' is a very appropriate thing to do.

We took advice from around the world on how voluntary redundancy schemes have operated in media organisations, and the feeling has been that you can often lose many of your very best people under a voluntary redundancy scheme and some who you do not let go are very upset and bruised by that process. I think this is a fairer process than management just making arbitrary decisions and sending slips out to people. But perhaps Ms Torney, who is running this process—

**Senator XENOPHON:** No, I need to move on, I am sorry. I have limited time.

**Mr Scott:** It is very important. But I think we are trying to be fair to our staff—

**Senator XENOPHON:** Perhaps you could provide it on notice.

**Answer:**

Following the efficiency measures announced by the Government in November 2014, the ABC has had to consider whether there are more efficient ways of producing content, and adopting these measures where prudent to do so. As a result, the ABC has ceased internal production in Western Australia and South Australia beyond 2014.

Unfortunately this means that the Television production unit in Adelaide will be closing, with the loss of 21 positions and a commensurate number of potential redundancies.

The ABC will continue to produce a full range of local news and current affairs programming for TV, radio and online in Adelaide.