

**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: 563**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 35 1/12/14**

**Topic: Inclusion of Adelaide Office in efficiency review**

**Senator Wright asked:**

**Mr Scott:** If you look at what reviews have been done to look at that—certainly the department's efficiency review looked at that and certainly the Boston Consulting report—

**Senator WRIGHT:** It did not look at Adelaide, did it?

**Mr Scott:** No, but I am saying we cannot just look at Adelaide.

**Senator WRIGHT:** I understand your rationale for saying you cannot, but I am still interested in knowing what has, at this point. Can you take that on notice?

**Mr Scott:** Yes.

Senator WRIGHT: I am interested in knowing what reviews in the last 10 years have directly examined the productivity, costs and output of the Adelaide ABC TV production unit; what the findings have been; and whether they have been publicly released. Then let us come to the Lewis review. I understand that, again, the Lewis review did not specifically examine the efficiency and productivity of the unit. It extrapolated from the Melbourne scenario. That is my understanding. I am happy to be corrected if that is wrong.

**Answer:**

The ABC constantly reviews the cost of television production. The Television Division has a robust and comprehensive monthly commissioning process that examines the cost of all television production and all sources of funding. It sets benchmarks for genres for internal and external production. This includes internal and external television production in South Australia and all states and territories.

Television also maintains a comprehensive commissioning database that records both commissioned and actual costs to be ABC that are examined through monthly, quarterly and annual reporting. It compares costs against like productions internally and externally where information is available.

In 2011 the Senate conducted an inquiry into external production, specifically looking at the most effective and efficient method of commissioning television production to meet Charter obligations. The Government response to this report in October 2012 stated that “the mixed production model harnesses the skills and experience of both the independent and ABC production teams, and ensures viewer benefit from seeing more quality Australian productions”. It also noted that “External partnerships also allow the ABC to access (and foster) ideas and talent from outside the ABC. External productions therefore play an important role in ensuring the ABC is able to meet its Charter obligation to broadcast programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of, the Australian community.”

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The ABC regularly meets with Screen Australia, each of the state and territory screen agencies, SPAA and independent producers to maximise the efficient use of its funding to draw content from regional Australia.