

**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: 569**

**Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Australian Content**

**Senator McGRATH asked:**

1. With respect to the ABC's four television channels, what proportion of content between 6am and midnight is Australian?
2. How much does the ABC spend to source international television programs:
  - a. Overall?
  - b. For each of its four television channels?
3. How does the ABC ensure that it gets value for money for taxpayers when sourcing international television programs?

**Answer:**

1. The proportion of Australian content (6 am to midnight), averaged over the last three financial years is as follows:
  - ABC1: 63 per cent
  - ABC2 (including ABC4Kids and ABC2): 26 per cent
  - ABC3: 49 per cent (6am to 9pm)
  - ABCNews24: The majority of ABC News 24's output is rolling news coverage produced live in Australia over 18 hours per day. News programs are a compilation of local, national and international content, making it difficult to quantify the Australian content. In overnight timeslots, News 24 simulcasts live news programs sourced internationally and replays ABC current affairs programs.
2. This information is commercial in confidence.
3. The ABC has an experienced acquisitions team that sources television programs for its channels. These acquisitions are monitored by governance frameworks that test the value of acquired programs across a range of financial benchmarks. If an acquired program reaches a certain value, it is referred to the ABC's Contract Review Committee which assesses the value of the deal prior to the acquisition being finalised.