

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: 607

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contract. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
6. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change?
7. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website?
8. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
9. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. Not applicable. (The ABC assumes that this is not intended to cover community service announcements and occasional broadcast and related support of disaster appeals or community fundraising, or community activities in accordance with the ABC Act and ABC Editorial Policies.)
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable.
9. Not applicable.