

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: 624

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Disability Access

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Please provide a list of all premises owned, leased or otherwise operated by the department / agency which do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010). For each, please provide:
2. The year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires).
3. What plans are in place to make the premises compliant with the Act.
4. When these plans will commence and when they are expected to be complete.
5. Has the minister or the minister's office been informed of these plans? Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the minister's office and the department regarding this issue.
6. What is the expected cost of making the premises compliant? Please break down the costs.
7. Have any plans to make any premises compliant been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail, including the reasons for which they were cancelled, put on hold or delayed and how the decision was reached.
8. Have any complaints been lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.

Answers

1. The ABC endeavours to ensure an appropriate level of access for people with a disability who may work within or visit its premises.

All of the ABC's premises comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act* provisions in place at the time of acquisition or construction. As compliance to current standards is only required to be updated when a significant refurbishment is undertaken, some of the ABC's older existing premises have some areas that are not fully compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act* (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010).

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The sites included in attachment 1 include some areas of non-compliance relating primarily to no Braille or tactile signage, no tactile indicators and in some cases, no designated accessible car parking.

2. Included in Attachment 1
3. As outlined in question 1, some older existing ABC premises are only compliant with the standards in place at the time of acquisition of construction. In accordance with the Access to Premises Buildings - Standards, however, any significant refurbishment of ABC premises factors in an upgrade to meet the current access standard. In circumstances where an immediate need arises, for example in the event of the employment of a disabled staff member, and upgrades would be required to make the premises compliant, this work will be undertaken.
4. The ABC does not have a Corporation wide plan to refurbish existing buildings to make them compliant with the Act. However, recent refurbishments at Darwin, Albany and Mackay have included works required to enhance the premises in line with *Disability Discrimination Act* requirements.
5. No.
6. Detailed cost planning is assessed when a refurbishment is planned. The costs will range depending on the necessary scope of works to facilitate access requirements in accordance *Disability Discrimination Act*.
7. No.
8. No.

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Attachment 1

ABC OWNED CAPITAL CITY SITES:

	Q1	Q2
STATE	SITE	ACQ DATE
NSW	LANCELEY PLACE	8/06/1973
VIC	RIPPONLEA	12/01/1956
VIC	SELWYN ST	28/12/1990
VIC	SOUTHBANK	29/11/1988
SA	COLLINSWOOD	31/05/1957
ACT	CANBERRA	21/11/1979
NT	DARWIN	12/01/1988

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OWNED REGIONAL SITES

	Q1	Q2
STATE	SITE	ACQ DATE
NSW	DUBBO	1/07/1991
NSW	LISMORE	23/04/1987
NSW	NEWCASTLE	20/11/1990
NSW	ORANGE	4/02/1994
NSW	PORT MACQUARIE	28/09/2001
NSW	WAGGA WAGGA	25/11/1986
NT	ALICE SPRINGS	4/08/1988
QLD	CAIRNS	1/07/1991
QLD	LONGREACH	19/12/1960
QLD	MOUNT ISA	25/05/1986
QLD	ROCKHAMPTON	14/06/1963
QLD	TOOWOOMBA	22/09/1989
QLD	TOWNSVILLE	16/01/1964
SA	BROKEN HILL	30/04/1969
SA	MOUNT GAMBIER	5/04/1956
SA	PORT PIRIE	13/05/1986
TAS	LAUNCESTON	1/01/1971
VIC	BALLARAT	3/05/2002

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ABC OWNED REGIONAL SITES

	Q1	Q2
STATE	SITES	ACQ DATE
VIC	BENDIGO	17/02/1989
VIC	SALE	30/06/1990
VIC	WODONGA	31/08/1995
WA	ALBANY	30/01/1996
WA	WAGIN	4/06/2002

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ABC LEASED REGIONAL SITES

	Q1	Q2	
STATE	SITE	LEASE START	LEASE EXPIRY
NSW	BEGA	Pre-2000	30/06/2016
NSW	COFFS HARBOUR	Pre-2000	30/11/2015
NSW	MUSWELL-BROOK	Pre-2000	Monthly
NSW	NOWRA	1/03/2003	28/02/2018
NSW	TAMWORTH	Pre-2000	30/09/2017
QLD	BUNDABERG	Pre-2000	28/02/2016
QLD	GLADSTONE	Pre-2000	Monthly
QLD	GOLD COAST	1/09/2010	31/12/2015
SA	PORT AUGUSTA	1/09/2000	31/08/2015
SA	PORT LINCOLN	1/01/2005	31/12/2016
SA	RENMARK	Pre-2000	31/12/2016
TAS	BURNIE	Pre-2000	Monthly
VIC	HORSHAM	Pre-2000	31/12/2017
VIC	MILDURA	Pre-2000	31/08/2016
VIC	MORWELL	Pre-2000	Monthly
VIC	SHEPPARTON	1/03/2005	28/02/2015
WA	ESPERANCE	1/02/2008	31/01/2016
WA	KALGOORLIE	Pre-2000	30/06/2018

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	Q1	Q2	
STATE	SITE	LEASE START	LEASE EXPIRY
WA	KARRATHA	22/12/2012	21/12/2015
WA	KUNUNURRA	1/11/2008	31/10/2015