

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 11

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 61, 20/10/2015

Topic: BCR - Restructures

Senator McAllister, Jenny asked:

Senator McALLISTER: I have a follow-up question. The general results APS-wide in State of the service make quite a bit of comment about the experience of major change in the workplace and the negative impact that has on employee engagement. How many restructures have taken place within your unit, Dr Paterson, in the 12-month period?

Dr Paterson: I would need to take that on notice. Not surprisingly, from my perspective at least, as we have felt our way into the work program, with the staff resources we have and the best way to structure ourselves, there have been a number of changes over time.

Senator McALLISTER: Over 12 months, not over time; in a 12-month period.

Dr Paterson: Over 12 months?

Senator McALLISTER: Yes.

Dr Paterson: I will take that on notice and get back to you.

Answer:

At the time of establishment on 1 September 2014, the Bureau of Communications Research (BCR) comprised the following sections:

- Data and Statistics
- Economics
- Market Analysis; and
- Executive support

In October 2015, the following restructures were conducted:

- Data and Statistics was renamed Data Science and Analytics to better reflect an increased responsibility for providing data-oriented analytical support to the Department. At this time the Data Science and Analytics section took on responsibility for spatial analysis in addition to existing statistics, data science and analytics capability; and
- Market Analysis was renamed 'Emerging Policy Issues' to better reflect an increased focus on policy analysis as the core function of the section. The restructure also resulted in the Emerging Policy Issues section taking responsibility for the delivery of the leading indicators and state of the sector publications, with the latter publication incorporating the previously-planned international competitiveness and investment pipeline publications.