

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2015
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 152

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 8, 30/11/15

Topic: Consultant Spend

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Senator XENOPHON: The annual report reveals that the ABC spent \$4.7 million on consultants last year. Can you give us a breakdown on what that was spent on?

Mr Scott: Yes, we can. We can take that on notice. Broadly, we did engage consultants around a number of matters, and partly it was to help us define the \$250 million that was identified in cuts. The other area that is a significant consultancy spend for us is that we are in the process now of renegotiating our major television transmission contracts, contracts that are worth billions of dollars over a 20-year-plus period, and we had significant support around that.

Senator XENOPHON: Can I just put this in context? This is an issue that I raised in respect of defence, about the money they spend on consultants. I am not equating the ABC to defence—far be it from me to say that.

Mr Scott: I appreciate that. We will give you a breakdown on notice.

Answer:

Appendix 9 of the ABC's 2015 Annual Report includes a breakdown of consultancy spend by vendor. These can be broadly categorised as follows:

Category	\$ Spend
Strategic advice, including services related to savings initiatives	2 044 862
Finance, tax and other advisory services, including services related to savings initiatives and renegotiation of transmission contracts	1 595 987
Technical advice, including services related to savings initiatives and renegotiation of transmission contracts	513 334
International development projects	156 803
Career advice afforded to staff impacted by savings initiatives	140 140
Risk assessment and analysis	64 494
Property valuations	22 804
Various consultancies individually less than \$10k	185 419
TOTAL	\$4 723 843