

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 118

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Pages 93-94, 28/10/2016

Topic: Audit of Time Allocated

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Where can I find, let us call it an audit or an analysis, on your time allocated? Do you do it specifically for the election or do you just do it as an—

Mr Sunderland: We do it specifically for elections. For the last couple of years we have not done it for state and territory elections. We do it for federal elections still at this time. I can certainly send you some information where you can find those that have been done, where they have been published and also, in case it is of interest to you, the information around the free time as well.

Answer:

The ABC's Election Coverage Review Committee (ECRC) monitors the ABC's coverage at each federal, state and territory election and meets regularly during the election period to ensure compliance with the requirements of *the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* and the ABC Editorial Policies. The ECRC reports on its findings at the conclusion of the election.

As part of its report for the 2016 Federal Election, the ECRC considered a number of facets of the ABC's coverage, including guidance provided to staff, contacts and complaints from the public, and the provision of free time broadcasts. The report also includes share-of-voice data for selected election coverage on the major ABC platforms of the candidates and party officials.

The report has been published and is available at:

<http://about.abc.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2016FederalElectionECRCRPT.pdf>