

**Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts**

2006-07 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio

Questions on Notice—Monday, 30 October 2006

NOTE: ANSWERS RECEIVED TO 7 FEBRUARY 2007 TABLED 8 FEBRUARY 2007

ANSWERS RECEIVED TO 28 MARCH 2007 TABLED 29 MARCH 2007

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
1	ECITA 3	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—It was reported by Amanda Meade in the <i>Australian</i> on 19 October 2006: <i>We hear management has had to put an extra staff member on to handle the number of complaints, and the tally is so high staff have had to stop logging each call.</i> Did you have to put on an extra staff member? Mr Brown—...I am not aware of any change in that regard. Senator CONROY—If there is any change to that—extra staff having been involved in receiving the phone calls—please let us know. Take that on notice.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
2	ECITA 5	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—Did the community express a position; did it take a view? Mr Brown—I do not believe it did. Senator CONROY—There wasn't a motion? Mr Brown—On this, I do not believe there was. Senator CONROY—Do you want to take that on notice? Mr Brown—Yes.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
3	ECITA 6	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—So, under the new advertising guidelines, SBS has decided to give the term 'natural program break' a wider meaning. Did the board seek legal advice on whether its new policy was consistent with the act? Mr Brown—SBS obtained legal advice at the senior counsel level. Senator CONROY—Was that external to the organisation? Mr Brown—Yes, it was external. Senator CONROY—How much did that cost? Mr Brown—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
4	ECITA 16	Allison	<p>Senator ALLISON—...Can you advise whether programs—documentaries or otherwise—have been run in recent times about the problems of starvation for many Palestinians in the Gaza Strip? Mr Brown—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
5	ECITA 17	Allison	<p>Senator ALLISON—Thank you. Could you also provide, on notice as well, what reporting there has been of the post ceasefire in Lebanon with regard to the cluster bombs and the call for Lebanon to ask Israel to provide maps of where those cluster bombs were dropped, because I understand that</p>	SBS	08/02/07

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			there are more than 1,000 locations that are not known. Has that been the subject of reporting on SBS? Mr Brown—I would have to take that on notice. I am aware of that particular story, but I cannot recall exactly what our coverage has been.		
6	ECITA 17	Allison	Senator ALLISON—Just one other point: housing in Lebanon. As I understand it, not much has been done by way of reconstruction yet. Bridges, ports and so forth have had priority. Has there been any coverage of the need for temporary housing, for housing which, particularly in southern Lebanon, will stop people freezing when the snows come shortly? Has that been an issue that has been covered by SBS? Mr Brown—I believe that that sort of material has generally been covered by SBS news and current affairs, but, again, let me take that on notice to give you specifics. Senator ALLISON—Yes. Thank you very much.	SBS	08/02/07
7	ECITA 24	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—.....Mr Brown, I would like to take you to 3 August 2006—.....when you state: <i>Israel and the US laid the blame squarely at the feet of the so-called terrorist organisation.</i> You are referring to Hezbollah as a ‘so-called terrorist organisation’. Given what we know and what we have heard for years and years, how can SBS still refer to Hezbollah as a ‘so-called terrorist organisation’? Mr Brown—Was that on a <i>World News Australia</i> program? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—It was SBS radio, on <i>World View</i> . I will provide it for you. Here we are. What is Hezbollah? It is a ‘so-called terrorist organisation’. Mr Brown—Our policy on the use of the words ‘terrorist’ or ‘terrorism’ is that it is not for SBS to assign that label but to permit any quoting of that. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—There was no quote. This is on SBS radio, on <i>World View</i> —no quote, no nothing. Mr Brown—I will look into that.	SBS	08/02/07
8	ECITA 26	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—.....on the last occasion I actually provided you with the material that led to my question in relation to question No. 254. I provided you with information. It was there. I will provide it to you again. Could you please have another look at it in black and white and then come back and answer the question again, if you would not mind. That is the point of my complaint. I actually provided the material to you. Mr Brown—Certainly.	SBS	08/02/07
9	ECITA 26	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I want to take you to a story that was published on 14 June about Abu Bakar Bashir, the spiritual head of the terrorist organisation Jemaah Islamiah.....You refer to him as the alleged spiritual head of the Jemaah Islamiah militant group. Mr Brown—Sorry, what program was this? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—This is on 14 June. You refer to him on SBS world news—again, I will provide this to you— Mr Brown—So this is television: <i>World News Australia</i> . Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—You refer to him as part	SBS	08/02/07

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			of a militant group, yet here is the same report on Sky News online referring to 'the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiah'. Did your reporters change 'terrorist' to 'militant' or do you regard Jemaah Islamiah as a militant group rather than a terrorist group? ... Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I will provide you with that and perhaps you might have a look at that as well.		
10	ECITA 26/27	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—You refer to Hamas's campaign of terror against Israel as 'armed resistance'. Isn't that the language that they are using and you are siding with them? You are using their language. Mr Brown—My understanding of this answer is that, while those words are used by that organisation and similar organisations, it is not an inappropriate use of words on its own anyhow. Your point was that we did not do that for Israel. I am not sure that is the case; I would have thought that there would be occasions when describing Israeli activities that we may coincidentally use their words as well. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Please feel free to provide them to me because I could not really find any. If you can I would be most grateful.	SBS	08/02/07
11	ECITA 28	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—... All I want to know is: what is this person's [Mr Salef Saqqaf] connection with SBS? CHAIR—Could you take that on notice, Mr Brown? ... Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—... The questions I want answered is: can you find out whether this fellow does have links to the Muslim Brotherhood and whether he has been promoting those sorts of views in the time he has been working on SBS? Also, if he has done work on SBS, has that been monitored? Are you aware of what this fellow is saying? If he has done work on SBS, what language has it been broadcast in?	SBS	09/02/07
12	ECITA 32	Brown	Senator BOB BROWN—..... What percentage of Australians still cannot receive SBS, and what is being done to fix that up? Mr Brown—Television? Senator BOB BROWN—Both television and radio, but television first. ... Mr Broderick—We currently have scheduled for 2006 about 57 new sites for analog and digital television, including self-help, around Australia. We are in the process of negotiating a further 70 sites for digital television throughout Australia, which should take our digitisation of the analog network to conclusion. I think it would be in excess of 98 per cent, but I would have to take it on notice.	SBS	09/02/07
13	ECITA 32	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you provide us with a list of people who have spoken at fundraisers in, say, the last three years and let us know whether this is quite a frequent occurrence of SBS staff? Mr Brown—I can, and I hope it will be a very short list.	SBS	08/02/07
14	ECITA 32	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—... At the last estimates you conceded that there had been a failure to adequately manage an online forum about Vietnamese nurses, which resulted in the site being hacked with multiple pornographic references of Asian school girls and so forth. ... You have	SBS	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			informed us that, as a result of this episode, you have taken steps to make sure that your management of this kind of forum is more professional. Do you want to comment on that and the steps you may have taken in relation to that? Mr Brown—I am not in a position to specifically address that. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Perhaps you might take that on notice.		
15	ECITA 38	Wortley	Senator WORTLEY—I think my question is to Mr Ingram. How many vacancies are there currently in SBS radio? Where do the vacancies occur? How long has each position been vacant? And when does SBS expect to fill those vacancies? Mr Ingram—If you do not mind, I will take that on notice.	SBS	08/02/07
16	ECITA 38/39	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—In a report on SBS world news on 3 August, you had a story headlined ‘Prison ships to hold refugees’, which referred to a federal government plan to temporarily hold illegal fishermen and asylum seekers on a ship in Australian waters. These people are not refugees, yet your headline said clearly ‘Prison ships to hold refugees’. As we all know, you cannot be a refugee until you are assessed to be one. Surely this is just an attempt to put a negative, demonising spin on the government’s proposal. Mr Brown—I will take that one on notice.	SBS	08/02/07
17	ECITA 39	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—My question goes to two things. If you do look at the guestbooks, you can see that there is quite a robust exchange—in fact, bullying in some instances—of different views. I am going to put these on notice, but it really goes to the question of your responsibilities in relation to the guestbook. Does somebody monitor this? What sort of procedures do you have in place? ABC has a moderator and there is some sort of procedure in place. The question is about putting the examples to you but also asking you what procedures are in place to deal with some of the most outlandish things: how long you leave this stuff on there and that sort of thing. So it goes to not only quantity but also is a quality issue. Mr Brown—I will take that on notice.	SBS	08/02/07
18	ECITA 41	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—Do you know how many SBS staff were in either Lebanon or Israel? Mr Brown—No, I would have to take that on notice.	SBS	08/02/07
19	ECITA 48	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—He asks: <i>... do you accept the fact—again of reliable and responsible commentators—that what has been going on in Gaza in recent days, including the bombing ... amounts under Geneva Conventions to a war crime?</i> If you think that is justifiable, we know where we are going on this. On 5 April 2006, there was a reference on <i>Dateline</i> to terrorist acts. Mr Brown—In what context? Senator RONALDSON—It states: <i>ETA has waged a horrific campaign on the Spanish state for decades. It has killed over 800 people in terrorist acts over the past 20 years.</i> Is that okay?	SBS	08/02/07

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			Mr Brown—I suspect not. Senator RONALDSON—You will be doing something about it? Mr Brown—I will take it on notice.		
20	ECITA 49	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—...On 26 July, Nadim Huory, the Human Rights Watch representative in Lebanon, was interviewed by Mr Negus on <i>Dateline</i> . I will give you this quote from Mr Negus. He says: <i>It would appear the Israelis feel as though they have a free hand.</i> Is that an objective or an impartial comment? Mr Brown—It is hard for me to judge the quality of an interview and the appropriateness of a question without seeing the entire interview. That may have been said in response to something that the interviewee said. Senator RONALDSON—It was not a response; it was a direct question. Do you think that is appropriate? Mr Brown—Questions flow from answers. I would rather take that on notice and have a look at the totality of the interview.	SBS	08/02/07
21	ECITA 49	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—On the 26th, as I said, Mr Negus interviewed a Human Rights Watch representative from Lebanon who described the actions in Lebanon as war crimes. On 5 August, in a report from Israel, the director of Human Rights Watch said that ‘lobbing rockets blindly into civilian areas is without doubt a war crime’. I will repeat what he said: ‘Lobbing rockets blindly into civilian areas is without doubt a war crime.’ Why would that war crime not be discussed by <i>Dateline</i> when the Human Rights Watch item from Lebanon some weeks before was given substantial airplay? Mr Brown—I do not know whether it was or was not. Again, I will take that on notice.	SBS	08/02/07
22	ECITA 52	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—...Nick Lazaredes of the SBS <i>Dateline</i> program filed a report on the war in which he showed only damage in Lebanon and spoke only to Lebanese and to Franklin Lamb, whom he described as: <i>A former congressional aide and international law expert ...</i> Professor Lamb was extremely critical of Israel. That is not surprising, given that he is a research associate of an organisation called If America Knew, which is an organisation dedicated to stopping American support for Israel. Lazaredes did not mention that. Do you think that, if he was aware of it, he should have mentioned it? Mr Brown—Again, I will take that on notice. I would like to look at those specific reports that you are talking about rather than isolated sentences. I will form a view and respond directly to that. Senator RONALDSON—All right. On 21 September Mary Kostakidis announced: <i>Three Palestinian men, reported to be goatherds, died in an Israeli missile attack after approaching an area from where two rockets had been fired into Israel.</i> In actual fact, the Israelis had said that these two men were seen handling a rocket launcher. Again, there was no mention of that. On SBS news on 5 October, Prue Lewarne,	SBS	08/02/07

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			<p>speaking over scenes of Palestinians crying over covered bodies said:</p> <p><i>It is scenes like this that fuel Hamas popularity on the Arab street. Two Palestinians killed after an Israeli air strike.</i></p> <p>What she did not mention was that they were Islamic Jihad members.</p> <p>Mr Brown—...those sorts of complaints may well be the ones that have gone through the objective complaints system ... Alternatively, if they have not gone through the formal complaints process and you are tabling them for questions on notice, then I am happy to respond to those.</p>		
23	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Further to previous questions about the joint SBC TV and Film Finance Corporation film called "The President Versus David Hicks" which included in a promo: "what motivated this young Australian cowboy to become a freedom fighter for Islam." Is SBS comfortable with being a party to a film whose promo describes an accused terrorist in these terms, an accused terrorist who fought with terrorist organisations Lashka E Toiba, the Taliban and Al Qaeda?</p>	SBS	08/02/07
24	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to the issue of the World View broadcast of 8 May 2006 by your reporter with a Jewish background whom I called a propagandist for Hamas because of his report which I submitted last time. I note that you made no attempt to analyse the actual report, rather, you just wrote about his family background. The point was that his report was nothing more than a free kick for Hamas, which is why I objected. In giving Hamas a free kick and not playing the devil's advocate, he created the impression that he was simply allowing a propaganda voice piece for Hamas, rather than asking the hard questions. Could SBS have a look at the actual report and provide comment?</p>	SBS	08/02/07
25	Tabled Xref ECITA 34	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to the report on Dateline on 30 August 2006 on the Mexican elections. I can confirm that my complaint is that you use what I believe is a soft term, namely "leftist", to describe the left-wing candidate, but then you use "right wing" to describe the conservative candidate. It is being asserted that you should use "right wing" and then "left wing". Why did your reporter use a different term in this way? Was the reporter trying to portray the left candidate in a more sympathetic way?</p>	SBS	08/02/07
26	Tabled X- ref ECITA 35	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to the report on the Dateline programme of 28 June 2006 which included an item which could be described as a left-wing "pro-civil liberties brigade" attack on the Government's much-needed counter-terrorism laws. The questions relates to the programme, and not the guest book. Patrick Emerson, Monash University Law School said:</p> <p><i>"The Liberal Party of Australia fostered the doing of a terrorist act, namely the invasion of Iraq, but we know that no member of the Liberal Party of Australia is going to be prosecuted for being a member of a terrorist organisation."</i></p> <p>As well as being an academic at Monash, Patrick Emerson led a workshop on The War on Terror at last year's gathering of the far-left political group called "Now We The People." The man has far left wing views and he is not only</p>	SBS	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			provided with air time on Dateline, but SBS fails to meet basic ethical journalist principles by not disclosing his conflict of interest. What does your Code say about declaring conflicts of interest?		
27	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to your answer to question 243 from the last Estimates. You provided a justification for an Online poll you conducted to mark the tenth anniversary of the Howard Government as follows:</p> <p><i>“How would you rate John Howard’s decade in power. 1. A job well done 2. Leadership that plays on fear. 3. Time for a change. 4. I don’t care.”</i></p> <p>Where did SBS get this idea that the Prime Minister’s leadership plays on fear? Did you get the idea, as proposed during Senate Estimates, from the Greens and Democrats leaders? Are you adopting the political posture of those two parties?</p>	SBS	08/02/07
28	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Further to the matter of the Dateline guest book, it is not a matter of the odd conspiracy theory. My concern is the overall tone - it is flooded with conspiracy theories in fact. There are other problems including the way in which two or three regular “far-left conspiracy theory types” bully other members of the forum because they disagree with their views. So much for tolerance and harmony. Enclosed are extensive examples and a detailed assessment and a response would be appreciated.</p> <p>And why do some of the posters apparently masquerade as Israelis and then make comments like this about the Prime Minister:</p> <p><i>“Little Johnny is a Zionist, we control him from Jerusalem”.</i></p> <p>What procedures are in place for monitoring of the guestbook? Who is responsible for this? What criteria, if any, do you use for consideration of removal of material from the guestbook?</p>	SBS	08/02/07
29	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to your answers from previous Estimates about the Dateline programme of 12 April 2006 regarding a woman called Marian Farhat. At October Estimates you explained that Dateline had stated that</p> <p><i>“Farhat is featured in a campaign video farewelling one of her sons as he prepared to attack Israel, killing five before being killed himself.”</i></p> <p>You went on to say:</p> <p><i>“There is no suggestion here that we avoided the full explanation of these circumstances.”</i></p> <p>But the programme did NOT state that the “killing five” referred to five innocent civilians, mainly teenagers. If you claim this was a “full explanation” why didn’t the programme state “five young teenagers” or “five civilians, mainly teenagers?” Are you glossing over the fact that Palestinian terrorists indiscriminately target civilians? This was a reasonably long-form programme which could easily have included the additional matter.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
30	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Could you provide details of the two upheld, and three partially upheld, complaints referred to at Estimates, as well as the complaints you rejected, including the reasons.</p>	SBS	08/02/07
31	Tabled	Fierravanti-	I refer to question 262 from last Estimates about a report on	SBS	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
		Wells	World News TV on 5 April 2006 regarding an Israeli raid in Gaza. You said you had concerns about the accuracy of Ashleigh Nghiem's report but could not discuss them with her because she was overseas. Has she returned and have you resolved this matter? Please provide a further response.		
32	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I note you intend to broadcast a programme on Dateline on 1 November 2006, on what you describe as attempts to stop criticism of Israel and the US on American campuses. Have you ever broadcast a programme on Dateline or any other news and current affairs forum, on the alarming rise in anti-Semitism on American campuses? Your attention is drawn to a report on a radical Islamic front group at Minnesota State University Moorhead, and Georgetown University getting \$20 million to spread Islamic hatred of Israel. Also enclosed is an article on the increase in Nazi symbols being put up around at UC Irvine Campus.	SBS	08/02/07
33	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Also enclosed is a document from the Anti-Defamation League in the US, a very substantial document, which documents hundreds, if not thousands, of attacks against Jewish students and targets. Could you provide details of what coverage you have provided on this, on Dateline or similar news and current affairs programmes, including World View on SBS Radio and in your news?	SBS	08/02/07
34	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	What coverage did SBS provide of the rise in anti-Semitism in Australian campuses? Enclosed is a relevant article from The Age. What coverage did SBS provide of a six-fold rise in anti-Semitic attacks in Australia during the Israel-Lebanon War? Enclose is a relevant article from The Bulletin for your reference.	SBS	08/02/07
35	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to material from the SBS Radio Spanish programme which indicates it did not cover the May 2006 Federal Budget, except by way of Mr Beazley's attack on it. Why wasn't it covered adequately? You are referred to SBS material from its Spanish radio programme which indicates some very poor translating. Please provide a response on this.	SBS	08/02/07
36	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Enclosed are SBS transcripts from two World View items which contain very sloppy errors. Why was this?	SBS	08/02/07
37	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Enclosed is a World View transcript about an item on drugs. Will SBS consider dropping references to these dangerous and illegal drugs as "party drugs"?	SBS	08/02/07
38	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to the SBS coverage of Israel's use of phosphorus. What coverage did SBS provide of Hezbollah's use of cluster bombs in Israel?	SBS	08/02/07
39	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Does SBS refuse to accept that any part of Jerusalem is in Israel? If I can take you back to Estimates of May 2005: <i>"Lee Lin Chin on your evening news of February 26, 2005, a Palestinian suicide bombing in the Israeli capital Tel Aviv."</i> SBS passed it off as an "inadvertent error". It seems to be something of a recurring inadvertent error.	SBS	09/02/07
40	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	In your answer you also quoted guidelines about the issue of the status of Jerusalem. Following is part of what you said <i>"SBS journalists should ensure that their own references to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are neutral and neither is</i>	SBS	08/02/07

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			<i>described by SBS as the capital.</i> What procedures are in place to ensure that such fundamental errors are not made?		
41	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer you to your SBS World Guide. "Israel. Cities. Jerusalem – brackets – capital." Please explain what is happening on this issue?	SBS	08/02/07
42	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	SBS ran a story this year from Aarti Betagari on "Peak Oil" theories. What coverage did SBS provide of alternative theories, which were presented recently by visiting experts? Enclosed are ABC and other reports of this.	SBS	08/02/07
43	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	What experience of multicultural broadcasting do members of the SBS Executive hold?	SBS	08/02/07
44	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	What monitoring of the Arabic programme was conducted during the recent conflict in Lebanon? What were the results of any monitoring?	SBS	08/02/07
45	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Please provide details of any complaints upheld since January 2006.	SBS	08/02/07
46	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I note that Ms Masselos is due to replace Mr Luu shortly. Please provide Ms Masselos' experience, including specific experience in radio broadcasting. What was the selection procedure adopted by SBS for replacement of Mr Luu? Please provide a copy of the selection criteria, including an assessment of how Ms Masselos met each aspect of the selection criteria?	SBS	08/02/07
47	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	How has the budget for SBS Radio changed in the past five years? Please provide a comparison with other areas of SBS including reasons for any reduction of staff and budgets for SBS Radio?	SBS	08/02/07
48	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Please provide an outline of any reorganisation of the divisions/areas of SBS?	SBS	08/02/07
49	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	What percentage of the SBS budget goes to SBS Radio compared to five years ago?	SBS	08/02/07
50	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Please provide an outline of the usual weekday programming on SBS Radio including a summary of the language in which programs go to air, the nature of the program and who usually conducts that program.	SBS	08/02/07 + 3 attach'ts
51	Tabled	Conroy	National Radio Network I understand that many parts of Australia cannot receive the full range of SBS radio services. Can you identify these locations? What sort of programs (eg language services) are not available outside of Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra? Has SBS made any estimates of the cost of rolling these services to other major cities and regional centres?	SBS	04/01/07
52	Tabled	Ludwig	1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by. b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide: i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.	Corporate & Business/ SBS	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 		
53	ECITA 73/74	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—.....I wanted to ask him about the waterfront series, the <i>Bastard Boys</i>. I have here a notice from a union website which says that the ABC asked for unionists to take part in filling at Port Botany. It also says that this involvement with the ABC gave them an opportunity to promote the anti-government, Your Rights at Work campaign.</p> <p>Did the ABC provide a bus to transport the unionists, and did it also take them up to a protest outside a local company, Botany Cranes? I am reliably informed that, on 16 September, a group of unionists who were being filmed by the ABC as extras were also taken up to that company and staged a protest outside the firm's front gates. Did anyone at the ABC organise this protest, or at least provide the transport to and from the protest? Were these people paid by the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I will have to take that question on notice. ...</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—If indeed it is true, as I suspect that it is, can you also advise the committee what action you may take in relation to it?</p> <p>Mr Scott—Let me check the veracity of it and then I will provide you with advice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Thank you. I also wanted to say to Mr Dalton that one of your presenters, Corinne Grant, <i>The Glass House</i>, is also the public face of the union's anti-government IR campaign. She has also evidently produced a radio ad for the unions.</p> <p>Mr Scott—I have not seen that campaign.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Again, that is on Your</p>	ABC	08/02/07

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			Rights at Work. I will produce a copy of that for you. Mr Scott—Thank you.		
54	ECITA 75	Fierravanti-Wells	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I want to take you to the new program called <i>First Tuesday Book Club</i> . I understand that the first <i>First Tuesday Book Club</i> had an auspicious start and that one of the presenters made a jibe along the lines of 'not like John and Jeanette invading Iraq'. It was bad enough that this comment was made on an arts program, but why drag Mrs Howard into it? Will you investigate that? Is this the sort of program that is now going to be covered by the editorial policies?	ABC	08/02/07
55	ECITA 82	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—I know you can find me plenty of examples of JI being described as a terrorist group. Can you give some examples in the Middle East, for instance, where someone has been described as a terrorist? Mr Scott—Let me take that on notice and come back to you.	ABC	04/01/07
56	ECITA 83	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—Do you know if this Mr Zananiri was a Palestinian who stood for election in the Palestine elections and works for a church group that is strongly anti-Israel? Mr Scott—No, I am not aware of that. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take that on notice? Mr Scott—Yes, I will. Senator RONALDSON—What is the process with fixers? What editorial or other control do you have on the use of fixers? What are the guidelines? Mr Scott—I will take that on notice too and come back to you.	ABC	08/02/07
57	ECITA 83	Ronaldson	Senator RONALDSON—.....I am going to ask you some further questions. It was the Palestinians who actually launched the raid into Israel, wasn't it, to capture these soldiers? I presume you want to take that on notice as well. And here is a caption from a photograph the ABC published on its website: <i>...smoke rises after Israeli jets fired missile on the village of Rachaya Al-Fokar near Chibaa in south Lebanon after Hezbollah guerillas captured two Israeli soldiers in attacks in south Lebanon</i> Again, they were captured inside Israel, weren't they? Mr Scott—I will take that on notice.	ABC	04/01/07
58	ECITA 92	Conroy	Senator CONROY—In total, how much money did the ABC spend on the <i>Jonestown</i> project? Mr Scott—Around \$100,000. That would include the advance to Mr Masters for the work, but also prepublication work that was completed, much of which was refunded to the ABC from Allen and Unwin. Senator CONROY—Can you provide a breakdown of the costs? Mr Scott—I can give that to you on notice.	ABC	04/01/07
59	ECITA 99/100	Fierravanti-Wells	This is the question of Mr Robb's speech where he only referred to the words 'integrate', but your journalist referred to it as 'assimilate'. It is question No. 169. ...I want you to go back and have a look at the speech that Mr Robb gave. Mr Scott—...We will come back to you on that	ABC	04/01/07
60	ECITA	Conroy	Senator CONROY—Have you attended any other political	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
	104		<p>party fundraisers since you took up your position with the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Scott—No party fundraisers, no. I do not expect to attend any fundraisers.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Are any other board members attending?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I cannot answer for the board.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Do you think it is appropriate for ABC management to attend political party fundraisers?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I have not considered the issue. I do not intend to—</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I am happy for you to take it on notice and give us your considered view.</p> <p>Mr Scott—Yes, I will respond to you on notice on that.</p>		
61	ECITA 104	Conroy	<p>Senator CONROY—What are the reasons behind the substantial changes in presenters on ABC Radio, Illawarra?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I will have to take that on notice.....</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Why are three longstanding presenters not currently broadcasting on the local station?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I will take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Is there any truth—and we may even be able to confirm this right here and now—in the rumour that one local presenter was stood down following a complaint from Senator Fierravanti-Wells?</p> <p>Mr Scott—There has been an issue with an announcer down there, but let me take that on notice and come back to you on it.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Was it in regard to a complaint from Senator Fierravanti-Wells? ...</p> <p>Mr Scott—Yes. Thank you. I will come back to you on notice on ABC Illawarra.</p>	ABC	04/01/07
62	ECITA 105	Wortley	<p>Senator WORTLEY—A former ABC employee will face trial in Sydney in November for allegedly defrauding the ABC by using false petty cash claims, invoices, Cabcharge dockets and ABC credit cards between May 2000 and October 2004. How many members of your staff have been investigated and had allegations of negligence directed at them in relation to this case?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I am not sure that we are in a position to answer that because it does relate to a matter that is before the court, as you suggest, and will be before the court in November. I cannot answer any question that is related to issues from within the ABC that will come up for trial in November.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY—This is not in relation to the court case as such but in relation to what you consider to be negligence.</p> <p>Mr Scott—It is in relationship to incidents that are going to be reviewed before the court in November, and so, of course, I cannot answer that.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY—Can you take the questions related to this on notice and provide the answers following that.</p> <p>Mr Scott—Following the resolution of the court case, yes, we can.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY—How many of the staff members that are being or have been investigated came under the alliance and CPSU agreement and how many came under the senior</p>	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			executive agreement or AWAs? Mr Scott—We will put that on notice for after November and the case resolution, assuming the legal processes are complete and no longer before the court.		
63	ECITA 106/107	Wortley	Senator WORTLEY—... In 13.7.14 you refer to the Independent Complaints Review Panel. It reads: Reviews will be conducted entirely informally, without legal representation. I take it that these reviews will include reviews with ABC staff? ... Mr Green—They may do. ... Senator WORTLEY—In relation to that, there have been some concerns raised because it talks about legal representation. Will staff be entitled to union and/or legal representation at those reviews? ... Mr Scott—It has not come up before. Let me take that on notice and come back to you formally.	ABC	04/01/07
64	ECITA 107	Wortley	Senator WORTLEY—...I understand that there was discussion with the relevant unions regarding ABC prize money for radio journalists being distributed back to the specific program team that the journalist or program maker was part of, but that the ABC did not honour the undertaking and has implemented or put forward the policy. Mr Scott—I am not aware of that. I will have to take that on notice.	ABC	04/01/07
65	ECITA 108	Lundy	Senator LUNDY—I have one question.Can you ever envisage a time when the ABC would be willing to pay for the rights to broadcast the national women's netball league or, indeed, the tests? Mr Scott—.....I do not have the details of the commercial arrangements before me now, but I am happy to come back to you on that. Senator LUNDY—If you could take that on notice, and also the ratings of the recent test series, that would be very interesting.	ABC	04/01/07
66	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to an item on Sydney Radio 702 on 4 August 2006 in a chat with Barry Cassidy about comparisons between Bob Hawke's comment that by 1990 no Australian child will live in poverty, and a similar statement from Kim Beazley, Sarah McDonald made this comment: <i>"Bob Hawke lived to regret that comment, let's hope Kim Beazley doesn't"</i> . Why is it a matter of concern for an ABC broadcaster whether or not the Labor leader comes to regret one of his comments?	ABC	04/01/07
67	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	On 7 July 2006 Adelaide radio host Matt Abraham made the following comment about a letter from David Hicks to his father: <i>"It really is quite heart-rending."</i> Is that sort of editorialising on behalf of an accused terrorist and war criminal appropriate? Would the ABC look into the enclosed matter from the same programme's guest book: <i>"Come on Matt, you really are sounding a bit boring with your continual jibes about the most recent</i>	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<i>appointments to the ABC Board. The more you carry on, the more we start to think that maybe there is an entrenched culture at the ABC.</i> Please comment on this.		
68	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I note on the same programme the Canberra commentator you engage, Christine Wallace, speaking about the death of the Al Qaeda leader in Iraq, described him as: "the famed Zarqawi." Not notorious or infamous, but famed. Why? Enclosed are a series of summaries of other comments she has made on this programme, because as the ABC will no doubt know, she is married to Kim Beazley's former Chief of Staff Michael Costello. Ms Wallace appears to be using this show to push Labor Party propaganda.	ABC	04/01/07
69	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Why did the ABC published on the Radio National web site, a promotion for an event organised by the Maritime Union of Australia involving the American political activist Cindy Sheehan. Is this appropriate?	ABC	04/01/07
70	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Would the ABC explain this comment from Virginia Trioli to Greg Combet the trade unionist: <i>"I mean don't we have a problem there if a Labor premier is actually arguing something that is clearly counter to the view you're holding Greg Combet."</i> Is it her and Combet versus the premiers?	ABC	04/01/07
71	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Enclosed is a transcript of an apparent exchange on Perth Local Radio from 9 June 2006 between caller "Jack" and the host Geraldine Mellet. This appears to be a case of a Labor Party plant being able to get on the airwaves in the guise of an ordinary talkback caller.	ABC	04/01/07
72	Tabled/Hansard ECITA 98	Fierravanti-Wells	Jennifer Byrne, standing in for Richard Glover on Sydney radio on 4 October 2006, appears to have made this comment about the Prime Minister's attendance at the 50 th anniversary dinner for "Quadrant" magazine: <i>"I think what struck me was that the Prime Minister was making no excuse for his attendance at this."</i> Is it the view of left-wing ABC journalists that the Prime Minister should have to provide an excuse whenever he talks to a conservative audience?	ABC	04/01/07
73	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Did radio presenter in Darwin, Richard Margetson, make this comment when he was interviewing the Prime Minister on 4 October 2006: <i>"Twenty three past ten, John Howard is with us, he is the Prime Minister of Australia in case you've never heard of him, I'm sure you have."</i> Wasn't this a gratuitous, smart-alec comment which has no place at a professional broadcaster?	ABC	04/01/07
74	Tabled/Hansard ECITA 99	Fierravanti-Wells	News executive Alan Sunderland has issued a memo about the picture of David Hicks firing or holding a bazooka. ABC reporters now have to make sure, "that care should be taken to ensure it is used appropriately." What does that mean? Does it mean that it should only be used if one of your stories refers to his time in Kosovo? Have you caved in to pressure from the Hicks' lobby? How many times has the ABC broadcast that photo since the memo was issued in about September? And would it equally be appropriate to use the picture of Hicks in a sweater at home in Adelaide, only if your story referred to	ABC	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			his time in Adelaide? How many pictures of Hicks do you have, to use?		
75	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	It is noted that your London reporter Rafael Epstein publicised his personal opposition to the Iraq War, during an item on Correspondents' Report on 1 October 2006. Do you think this is appropriate?	ABC	04/01/07
76	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	It is noted that a complaint was upheld against reporter Daniel Hoare and the "AM" programme for failing to produce a balanced broadcast on an immigration matter. You found that the programme failed to contact DIMA for a response, and that the web site headline for the story was also wrong. Was the producer of "AM" Mr Burgess counselled over this serious lapse?	ABC	04/01/07
77	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	The ABC agreed with an issue raised at May Estimates, that illegal drugs should not be referred to as "party drugs", at least in news and current affairs. Virginia Trioli used this reference, to "party drugs", on 27 September 2006 at about 10.45am. Would you consider extending this policy to all areas, not just news?	ABC	04/01/07
78	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	The ABC continues to breach the news and current affairs style guide in relation to reporting the size of anti-Government trade union protests. Enclosed are another five examples of your reporters referring to "more than" a certain number of protestors, making it seem like the ABC is impressed with the size of the union protests.	ABC	04/01/07
79	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	It is noted that, once again, you helpfully provided full details of the time and place of union protests in a news story, this time on ABC News Online on 28 June 2006: <i>"In Darwin workers will hold a rally at Raintree Park in the city at noon."</i> What action was taken subsequent to this?	ABC	04/01/07
80	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	The ABC continues to use one David Peetz as some sort of impartial commentator on IR issues, without ever disclosing his links to the union movement, including his role as official bard for the union publication "Workers Online." Why? Will his conflict of interest be declared from now on? How many times has he appeared on the ABC over Industrial Relations, and what other experts has the ABC used? Please provide full details.	ABC	04/01/07
81	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	The ABC also publicised details on 25 June 2006 of a rally in Brisbane involving Terry Hicks, in a news story, which urged people to attend. Why?	ABC	04/01/07
82	Tabled/Hansard ECITA 100	Fierravanti-Wells	Does the ABC understand the difference between integration and assimilation? (<i>Equal part of something v absorbed into</i>). In answer to question 169 from the previous Estimates, your reporter Mark Tobin made a reference to a government policy of assimilation, even though the reference was actually to integration. You said that was alright. Since then, Mark Colvin on 15 September 2006 said the Prime Minister had referred to assimilation, when he actually referred to integration and never said anything about assimilation. How is the ABC conforming to its charter requirements to take account of the multicultural character of the Australian community, when at the most senior levels of the organisation it appears the ABC doesn't know the difference	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			between assimilation and integration.		
83	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to an earlier answer from Estimates concerning this statement from Kerry O'Brien on The 7.30 Report of 3 November 2005 where he stated: <i>"The government finally tabled its draconian new counter-terrorism measures in the Parliament today."</i> The ABC was asked why Mr O'Brien was expressing his personal opinion that the laws were draconian. The ABC replied with a dictionary definition of draconian and then stated the use was appropriate and in context. The ABC Charter states that the ABC does not take an editorial stand. Isn't it the case that your senior executives, or whoever drafted this answer, are indeed taking an editorial stand by supporting Mr O'Brien's statement that the laws are draconian? Aren't you taking sides in the debate?	ABC	04/01/07
84	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to an interview between Maxine McKew and Barry Jones, a recent president of the Labor Party, on The 7.30 Report of 4 October 2006. She says: <i>"it's nice to have you back on the 7.30 Report."</i> Do you keep a list of people whom it is nice to have back on the programme and those that it is not? She also endorsed him as "one of the country's more popular figures." According to whom? Because recent media coverage of ALP attitudes to Mr Jones indicated he was far from popular. Can we look forward to this on The 7.30 Report, "One of the country's more popular figures, the Prime Minister. Mr Howard, nice to have you back on The 7.30 Report." Or does the cosy treatment only extend to Labor Party politicians?	ABC	04/01/07
85	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to the following exchange from Stateline Victoria on 6 October 2006: <i>Reporter Josephine Cafagna: "Ted Baillieu has openly expressed his progressive views on such issues (as abortion laws, condoms in prisons, gay unions and euthanasia)."</i> <i>Steve Bracks: "You, Josephine, have a view about what's socially progressive or not."</i> Why is an ABC reporter giving her opinion about whether policies on issues like euthanasia or abortion are quote "progressive" or not. Isn't Mr Bracks correct, that the reporter should not be wearing her heart on her sleeve like this?	ABC	04/01/07
86	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Why do terrorists and paedophiles get the respectful "Mr" treatment from your news/caff reporters. Faheem Lodhi is convicted of planning major terrorist attacks in Sydney and there are seven references to him as "Mr Lodhi" from Leigh Sales. Convicted child rapist Bradley Pendragon gets the "Mr Pendragon" treatment. Why?	ABC	04/01/07
87	Tabled/Hansard ECITA 100	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to the style guide rule on not referring to some people and not others by their first name, because it can create an impression the ABC sympathises with the person or issue. The ABC has previously been provided with more than 100 examples of this, including David Hicks, Cindy Sheehan and Scott Parkin, the causes celebre of immigration activists, and	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>various ALP politicians. Enclosed are yet more examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Israeli conscientious objectors. • Federal independent MPs Peter Andren and Bob Katter. • ALP pollster Rod Cameron. • British Labour leaders Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. • Queensland Labor Deputy Premier Anna Bligh • ALP Federal MP Peter Garrett. • Major Alfredo Reinado, the East Timor rebel soldier who has threatened to kill Australian soldiers. • Abdullah Merhi, one of the Melbourne men committed to stand trial on terrorism charges. • South-east Asia's most wanted terrorist and the bomb-maker behind the Bali bombings that killed 88 Australians, Noordin Mohammed Top. • And finally, the Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. <p>Would you care to explain that please? Are you happy that as per your own warnings, listeners may form a view that the ABC sympathises with people like terrorists?</p>		
88	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Does the ABC have a list of business executives that it is, and is not, on first name terms with such as Telstra CEO Sol Trujillo, ABC Childcare's Eddy Groves, MBF CEO Eric Dodd, and entrepreneur Keith Grocot? I enclose more than 100 other examples, just since May 2006. Please explain.	ABC	04/01/07
89	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to the answer to question 192. This is an inappropriate and inadequate response. Please explain why Mr Cameron's reply to earlier Estimates questions, that he can't find the two memos because he doesn't keep them? Surely such important memos as those referred to should be kept somewhere by the ABC?	ABC	04/01/07
90	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to the style guide rule on "our". I enclose another 150 examples since the May 2006 Estimates which brings the total since the Iraq War to nearly 800. Just on the "our" rule. But then the ABC said they won't address the individual examples provided by Senators, "you are not particularly concerned." But Mr Green said he would be concerned if there had been 150 examples in six months. That was back in 2005. Here are some of the new examples.</p> <p><i>"Our own new Reserve Bank Governor."</i></p> <p><i>"Our co-called democracy".</i></p> <p>Why is Australian democracy both "ours" and "so-called"? Isn't this just another jibe at the Howard Government? The ABC's Mr Cameron wrote at length in a memo to staff, about how adhering to the rules was important for the ABC's reputation and this sort of issue showed that compared to your commercial rivals, the ABC was the best show in town. 800 breaches of just one rule later isn't that boast looking a bit thin?</p> <p>It is also noted that those responsible include journalists with a long-established track record in breaching your style guide – Tony Eastley, Mark Colvin, Eleanor Hall, Heather Ewart, and Rebecca Carmody. As these sorts of matters have been raised many times before and these people continue to offend, has Mr Cameron ever actually spoken to them about this?</p>	ABC	04/01/07
91	Tabled	Fierravanti-	The ABC previously stated that the use of "we" would be	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
		Wells	<p>the same as “our”, in terms of the ownership principle. So why did Juanita Phillips on the Sydney 7pm News on 6 June 2006 during an interview with New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma, state the following:</p> <p><i>“Well, Premier, this is a big deficit we are looking at.”</i></p> <p>Is it because the presenter couldn’t bring herself to tackle Mr Iemma, so she says “we”.</p> <p>I note Layla Tucak on Stateline WA with Barnaby Joyce:</p> <p><i>“It sounds like you think we need to change the system, how do we go about doing that?”</i></p> <p>Was Ms Tucak spoken to after this breach?</p>		
92	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer to The 7.30 Report when the Prime Minister gave Kerry O’Brien a 269 word answer Mr O’Brien twice chastised the PM for the length of the answer and asked him to keep them shorter. When it was pointed out that the ALP President Warren Mundine gave a 396 word answer to Mr O’Brien and did not receive any chastisement, you said that was perfectly OK. Now we have Al Gore giving Mr O’Brien on 11 September 2006 a whopping 408 word answer without any comment from Mr O’Brien. So, you can be rude to the PM but not to prominent figures from the left? Please explain.</p>	ABC	08/02/07
93	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>The ABC reported extensively on The Australian newspaper’s Freedom of Information campaign involving Treasury information. What coverage did you provide concerning your own campaign to prevent a Freedom of Information request by the University Technology Sydney involving complaints about ABC coverage of the Middle East? You fought the case all the way to the Federal Court. But we have not heard anything about this matter. Why not?</p>	ABC	04/01/07
94	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>I refer again to the rule about “more than” and these two new examples are noted:</p> <p><i>“More than 200”</i> people protesting against the Prime Minister,</p> <p>and</p> <p><i>“more than 500 people”</i> protesting against the Israeli attacks in Gaza and Lebanon.</p> <p>Isn’t this a case of two more left-wing causes that the ABC is officially impressed with?</p>	ABC	04/01/07
95	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Why did Kerry O’Brien on The 7.30 Report of 19 October 2006 refer to the “Occupation” of Iraq. As a very senior journalist like Mr O’Brien should know, Coalition forces are in Iraq under a UN mandate, and at the express invitation of the democratically elected sovereign government of Iraq. Is this another example of loaded language designed to damage the Howard Government?</p>	ABC	08/02/07
96	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Enclosed are a large number of transcripts of Lateline and Lateline Business programmes, where the position or identity of several people in the stories is not stated. Why aren’t these transcripts more professional and will this problem be fixed?</p> <p>Also enclosed are a number of Lateline Business items where no transcript was provided. Could you explain this.</p>	ABC	04/01/07
97	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Also enclosed are a large number of factual errors made by the ABC. What improvements do you propose to your system of checks and balances.</p>	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
98	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Enclosed is a transcript of an interview between Helen Vatsikopoulos and Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He made a false statement that PM Howard had condemned him as barbaric. It was in fact Mr Hawke who made this statement. Why didn't your reporter challenge or correct him?	ABC	04/01/07
99	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	It is asserted that the report "CMC investigates use of hoods in custody" (PM 19 October 2006) was unbalanced. It contained 63 lines including comment from an Aboriginal legal service, a civil liberties spokesman, and a criminologist who all condemned it, but only 3 lines from the police. Is that balance?	ABC	04/01/07
100	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Did ABC news report on the revelation that Hezbollah used cluster bombs in its attacks on Israel? You gave extensive coverage to the use of these munitions by Israel, but a search of your Online News service did not reveal any mentions of Hezbollah and this practice. Enclosed is the summary of the news over the relevant period.	ABC	04/01/07
101	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	I refer to this comment from Michael Rowland at the end of a report on AM of 25 August 2006: <i>"It's all part of the rapidly intensifying US campaign to paint Iran as the latest regional bogey-man that needs to be tamed."</i> Isn't this a case of editorialising? Iran is in dispute with the IAEA. This comment makes it seem like the problem lies with the US, not Iran, and that Iran is not "the latest regional bogey man that needs to be tamed". Isn't it the case that Iran is a dangerous nation which would be even more dangerous if it had nuclear weapons?	ABC	04/01/07
102	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Regarding this comment by Jane Hutcheon on Lateline on 2 August 2006: <i>"The memory (Israel's memory) of the carnage from Qana already seems to be fading as Israel announced it was stepping up its ground offensive..."</i> Isn't this an attempt by your reporter to deliberately make Israel seem heartless? What evidence did she have that "the memory seems to be fading"?	ABC	04/01/07
103	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	Why did Peter Cave (PM, 31 July 2006) twice characterise the incident in Qana where some 28 people (not the "more than 60 civilians" as he reported) including Hezbollah operatives were killed, as a "massacre"? Isn't it the case that Mr Cave is fond of characterising Israeli defensive operations against terrorist attacks as "massacres"? The reference here is to the incident in Jenin four years ago.	ABC	04/01/07
104	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	When the ABC TV news bulletin (Sydney 7pm Thursday 26 October 2006) ended with a closer of the Sydney International Motor Show launch, why did it edit out pictures of the models that were present during the photoshoot. All the other networks showed pictures of the models. It is not being suggesting models should or should not be present at such events, but what was the reason was for this. Was it because in the same bulletin, you had reported on Sheikh Hillaly's views on scantily clad women?	ABC	04/01/07
105	Tabled	Fierravanti-Wells	What action has or will be taken against the cameraman who "downed tools" in the same bulletin?	ABC	04/01/07
106	Tabled	Fierravanti-	And what was the reason for the failure of the closer on the	ABC	04/01/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
		Wells	Friday Sydney 7pm bulletin (27 October 2006)?		
107	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding a remark of Mr Cameron's, quoted in the newspapers, that the decision to remove the term "freedom fighters" from the next ABC style guide came about because of a "routine update". If the ABC had wanted to update or remove the reference to freedom fighters, why wasn't it done in 2003 two years after 9/11 and one year after the first Bali Bombings? Did it only happen after it was raised in Senate Estimates?	ABC	04/01/07
108	Tabled	Ronaldson	In relation to a memo issued after the last Estimates - where the ABC finally admitted that Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad are indeed terrorist organisations - and in that memo the ABC said "our position has not changed in a formal or substantive sense." What does that mean? In what way did the ABC's position change?	ABC	04/01/07
109	Tabled	Ronaldson	Can I clarify ABC responses to my questions about the ABC qualification that you won't label an entire organisation as a terrorist organisation quote "in perpetuity". What time frame will you put on that? Jemaah Islamiya hasn't carried out a terrorist attack for more than a year, Hamas for 11 months. Yet ABC reporters still describe J-I as a terrorist organisation, but not Hamas. Geoff Thompson in June this year "Abu Bakar Bashir is no longer believed to have influential links with the terrorist network." But here is Jonathan Harley on The 7.30 Report on June the 29 th this year "militant groups like Islamic Jihad." And yet they have been conducting terrorist attacks against Israel this year. What is the time frame you have in mind with this term "in perpetuity"?	ABC	04/01/07
110	Tabled	Ronaldson	I want to take you back to the answer the ABC gave to question 238 from the last Estimates because it concerns a report by Mark Willacy. He reported on a Palestinian patient who would only get treatment in an Israel hospital if he paid for two security guards. The ABC was asked why the report didn't explain that the reason for these measures is that Palestinians have, in the past, often pretended to be patients, only to launch terrorist attacks. The ABC didn't answer the question. Instead there was an answer about the fishing issue, which you had already previously answered. Could you revisit your answer to question 238.	ABC	04/01/07
111	Tabled	Ronaldson	Further to these examples. Jane Hutcheon on Lateline on July the 26 th : "More than 100 Palestinians have now died in Gaza since Israel launched an operation to free its soldier captured there a month ago." A caption from a photograph published on your web site: "Smoke rises after Israeli jets fired missiles on the village of Rachaya Al-Fokar near Chibaa in south Lebanon after Hezbollah guerillas captured two Israel soldiers in attacks in south Lebanon." The soldiers were actually captured inside Israel. Tony Eastley on "AM" on September the 13 th : "The seizure of the soldiers was used by Israel as a reason to launch attacks into Lebanon against Hezbollah." Mr Eastley is suggesting that Israel wanted to attack, and just needed a reason it could use. Are these significant factual errors compatible with the ABC's policy of accurate and balanced reporting?	ABC	04/01/07
112	Tabled	Ronaldson	Juanita Phillips on the 7pm news on July the 18 th . "It's been	ABC	04/01/07

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			a week since Israel unleashed its military might against Hezbollah.” This implies that Israel started the conflict. The ABC has created the impression that the ABC has that the Gaza conflict started because an Israeli soldier was in Gaza, and Israel started the war against Hezbollah once it got the excuse it needed. Is creating this impression compatible with the ABC’s charter requirements for balance and impartiality?		
113	Tabled/ Hansard ECITA 84	Ronaldson	Regarding Tony Eastley with Mark Willacy on “AM” on June the 14 th “Mark Willacy, as I understand it Israel says this attack was against militants.” Mark Willacy “That’s right”. But it is wrong. This is more than paraphrasing. This is changing people’s words in a selective way, in a sensitive area. Is this impartial reporting? When we hear an ABC report that says someone said such and such, can your report in fact be trusted, because the person may have said something else?	ABC	04/01/07
114	Tabled	Ronaldson	ABC reporters won’t use the language of the Israelis, namely “terrorist”, but they will use the language of Israel’s enemies, namely “resistance” and “martyr”. Why? Isn’t this a double standard?	ABC	04/01/07
115	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding Jonathan Harley’s report about Syria on June the 29 th : “the country it (Israel) accuses of harbouring key Hamas leaders.” In fact, isn’t it the case that neither Hamas nor Syria makes any secret of the fact that Hamas leaders are based in Syria? Here’s a quote from July the 10 th of this year from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy “Earlier today Hamas politburo chief Khaled Mashal held a press conference in Damascus...” So a fact becomes an Israeli accusation with more loaded language.	ABC	04/01/07
116	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding the capital city of Israel. Why do ABC reporters refer to Tel Aviv as the capital? Here’s Eleanor Hall on The World Today on August the fourth: “vowing to attack the Israeli capital Tel Aviv”. And it is still there on your web site, no correction, no editor’s note.	ABC	04/01/07
117	Tabled	Ronaldson	Here’s Paul Lockyer on “PM” on August the second, referring to statements from the Israeli Government “And from what we’re hearing from Tel Aviv”. Here he is again on Midday Report on July the 21 st , “How concerned should Tel Aviv be?” Why did this occur? What action has been taken to counsel the journalists involved and provide accurate reporting?	ABC	09/02/07
118	Tabled	Ronaldson	I believe that the ABC may be allowing itself to be seen as adopting the agenda of Hezbollah. To quote a comment made by Peter Cave on the Sydney 7am radio news of August the fourth “Hezbollah says if Israel keeps bombing Beirut, they will bomb Tel Aviv.” Mr Cave continues “They said Tel Aviv because Hezbollah does not recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.” Two organisations that don’t recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel – Hezbollah and the ABC. Does this approach not create the perception that the ABC, like Hezbollah does not recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?	ABC	04/01/07
119	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding the ABC’s answer from an earlier Estimates, where you defended Peter Cave’s description of events in Jenin four years ago as a “massacre” by relying on the	ABC	04/01/07

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			<p>dictionary definition of a massacre. Another term your reporters use on a regular basis, “home made rockets.” Enclosed are half a dozen examples. A report by Matt Brown on Lateline on July the fifth “In Gaza City, an explosion at a Hamas safe house killed at least one militant. Hamas operatives may have been using the building to make explosives and the Israeli military says it was not involved in the blast. Armed Hamas men on the scene described the house as a military installation.”</p> <p>Clear evidence that military installations and so-called Hamas safe houses are used to make explosives. We also know that explosives and rockets are made in workshops and factory areas.</p> <p>The dictionary definition of “home made” is made at home, like Mum’s jam. Patently these rockets are not made ‘at home’ but rather in safe houses, factories, workshops, warehouses and military installations. Why does the ABC falsely describe these rockets as “home made”.</p> <p>Aren’t you allowing yourselves to be seen as portraying this as a kind of David and Goliath struggle, with the Palestinians as a rag-tag resistance group of martyrs battling the odds with home made weapons?</p>		
120	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding Mr Cameron’s management of your style guide. There is an entry under Execute: “Judges order executions. Gangsters, gunmen, hoodlums and terrorists ‘kill’ or ‘murder’ people.” But here’s Paul Lockyer: “The Palestinians are threatening to execute a captured Israeli soldier.” Had the captured Israeli soldier gone before a judge?	ABC	04/01/07
121	Tabled	Ronaldson	Here’s Matt Brown on Midday Report of June the 29 th : “Palestinian militants have executed an 18 year old settler.” David Hardaker on “PM” on July the 4 th “If this soldier is indeed executed.” Tom Iggulden on Lateline on March the 13 th , “There are reports of four men found executed in the streets of Sadr City.” Are they exempt because you are opposed to Israel, and the War in Iraq? Or is it mismanagement?	ABC	04/01/07
122	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding this statement from Tony Jones on Lateline of July the 26 th , “1982 was the invasion of Lebanon by Israel and did lead to many, many thousands of deaths and ultimately the Lebanese Civil War”. Is Mr Jones aware that the Lebanese Civil War actually began in 1975 and had nothing to do with Israel?	ABC	04/01/07
123	Tabled	Ronaldson	Regarding a comment made by one of your film reviewers on Triple J, Megan Spencer, back in June “The Jews used to be oppressed and now they are the oppressors.” What action has been taken over this appalling broadcast?	ABC	10/02/07
124	Tabled	Ronaldson	Can the ABC clear up the matter of Hezbollah’s television station Al Manar. The ABC was asked why Geraldine Doogue, on Saturday Breakfast, failed to disclose that one Ibrahim Mousawi, a commentator in a programme about Hezbollah, was actually working for Hezbollah at its own TV station. The ABC made two attempts to answer. First, ownership of Al Manar could not be established, and second, as the subject of the story was not media ownership, the man’s links to Hezbollah were not relevant.	ABC	10/02/07

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			<p>Those excuses are unacceptable. Here is Hamish Robertson on The World Today of November the 14th, 2003, which was 15 months before the Doogue broadcast: "Al Manar is also known as Hezbollah TV." Enclosed are three similar examples. All before 2005 and all found with a simple "Google" search.</p> <p>The Hezbollah ownership of Al Manar has been well known for years. Certainly the recent conflict flushed it out and to quote Eleanor Hall from The World Today of July the 19th:</p> <p>"This means that Ibrahim Mousawi, the chief editor of foreign news at Hezbollah's broadcasting network Al Manar TV, (and the very same person from the Doogue item), has effectively become the Shi'ite group's spokesman."</p> <p>Enclosed are 15 similar examples. How was it possible to find out about Al Manar and Hezbollah, including Ibrahim Mousawi's propaganda role, with a simple ten second "Google" search, but your senior journalists could not? If the Doogue programme could not ascertain ownership of Al Manar, why did it proceed with the interview? Why didn't she find someone who was neutral? Why didn't she simply ask him? He doesn't seem to have been going to very much trouble to hide the link.</p>		
125	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Regarding the Palestinian line that the so-called Prisoners Peace Plan offered some sort of recognition of Israel. "Implicit recognition" was the actual term used. Did any ABC reporters actually ever read this so-called plan? It includes a continuation of the so-called resistance, terrorist attacks against Israel. It also includes a requirement for this so-called right of return to Israel of all the Palestinians refugees and their descendants. Given that they number about six million, this would amount to a demographic destruction of Israel. It is not a viable well-intentioned peace plan at all, but a smokescreen to make the Palestinians look better.</p> <p>Did Mr Cameron, who has overall responsibility for this, note the ABC coverage and decide to read this "plan" for himself, to gauge the accuracy of your reporting? It was freely available on the Internet. If he didn't read the actual plan, as opposed to the wire service reporting of it, how did he know if your coverage was accurate?</p> <p>Did any of your senior news executives, Mr Hamilton perhaps or Mr Sunderland or Mr Wilesmith read the plan?</p>	ABC	10/02/07
126	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>Regarding the interview Michael Vincent did with UN spokesman Milos Stuger regarding firing near UN observer posts: "you say you were being fired upon even as your colleagues were being rescued." Stuger replied: "Not fired on us. Firing continued in that area." Vincent: "Do you know, is this the first time in this conflict a UN building has been targeted.?" Stuger replied: "I cannot say it has been targeted. I can tell you it was hit." How does this conform to your style guide rule about not asking leading questions? And will Mr Vincent continue to provide coverage of Middle East issues?</p>	ABC	10/02/07
127	Tabled	Ronaldson	<p>On ABC TV News, September 10, Newsreader Tamara Oudyn described Gilad Shalit as "the Israeli soldier captured</p>	ABC	10/02/07

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			in Gaza". Matt Brown then said Shalit was "captured and held in the Gaza Strip". Is it not the case that Corporal Shalit was kidnapped from inside Israel, not Gaza as the reports indicated? How did this mistake arise? What action has been taken to counsel those involved?		
128	Tabled	Ronaldson	On October 15, ABC TV newsreader Kathy Bowlen stated, "There's also been more violence in Gaza. An Israeli warplane fired a missile at a car on the main road crossing through the Gaza Strip, killing a Palestinian man. At least seven other people were wounded in the attack including several children. More than 20 Palestinians have died in the past three days as Israel steps up its offensive on the coastal strip." Why did the ABC neglect to report that the man was actually an al-Aqsa Brigade member who had been firing rockets at Israel, the Israeli offensive was aimed at preventing the rocket fire and almost all of the more than 20 Palestinians killed were terrorists.	ABC	10/02/07
129	Tabled	Ronaldson	On the Midday Report on ABC TV on October 2 Roz Childs announced, "Six weeks after the ceasefire, Israel has finally withdrawn just about all of its soldiers from southern Lebanon. The short but brutal war saw 1,200 Lebanese killed, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis." It is my understanding that Israel had waited until UN and Lebanese troops took up their positions and then withdrawn, in accordance with the ceasefire. Is the ABC's choice of the word 'finally' consistent with fair and balanced reporting of the situation?	ABC	10/02/07
130	Tabled	Ronaldson	Israel claimed to have killed 600 Hezbollah fighters. Given this claim how could the statement by Roz Childs on the Midday Report on ABC TV, 2 October 2006 that the "1,200 Lebanese killed" were "mostly civilians" be correct? Is this inaccuracy compatible with balanced reporting?	ABC	10/02/07
131	Tabled	Wortley	<u>Editorial Policies</u> 4.1 Editorial Responsibility and upward referral "It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that the provisions of the ABC Act, the ABC Code of Practise, laws relating to broadcasting and the philosophies and policies of the Corporation are observed." Mr Scott stated that these new editorial policies are "mandatory". 4.1.2 "Subject to normal editorial management and controls, staff are responsible for both making the content and for exercising editorial judgement...If staff do not refer the issue upward, he or she will be responsible for the editorial decision made..." How many staff do you have in the ABC legal department? Given the upward referral for almost anything, is there consideration being given to increasing the size of ABC Legal Services?	ABC	10/02/07
132	Tabled	Wortley	<u>Editorial Policies</u> 13.9.2 Reporting Complaint Outcomes (page 46) "Where the CRE, the ICRP or ACMA has reviewed a complaint about content and determined that a complaint is upheld, details of the finding of the review body will be available via an appropriate link on the content's website,	ABC	10/02/07

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			where materially practicable..." What determines "where materially practicable"? When would it not be "materially practicable"?		
133	Tabled	Wortley	Further to my questions during Budget Estimates regarding staff being accused of being engaged in serious misconduct in that they were inefficient or incompetent for reasons within their control or alternatively, negligent or careless in the discharge of their duties in relation to accepting claims from a former ABC employee, Mr Williams. How many ABC staff members have been investigated in relation to this case? How many of these staff members that are being or have been investigated, come under the Alliance CPSU ABC Agreement and how many come under the Senior Executive Agreement or AWA's? Has there or will there be disciplinary consequences in relation to those staff covered by these agreements and if so how many come under each of the agreements? If so, specifically what disciplinary procedures will be applied?	ABC	10/02/07
134	Tabled	Conroy	Hammersley Is the ABC familiar with concerns about radio interference in Hamersley in WA? Has the ABC received correspondence from a group known as RIGHT- RADIO INTERFERENCE GROUP HAMERSLEY TOWERS? What is the ABC doing to address these concerns? What is the ABC's response to the claim that the Hamersley WA transmitting station is causing interference and that it should be closed down and that programs should be transmitted in FM from Bickley WA	ABC	10/02/07
135	Tabled	Conroy	Does the ABC have any plans to commence transmitting in stereo on ABC local radio, Radio National and Newsradio? Has the ABC ever asked the ACMA for FM stereo licence for their capital city AM services?	ABC	12/02/07
136	Tabled	Webber	How much revenue does the ABC estimate it has forgone by refusing to publish "Jonestown"? If, in answer to question 1, the ABC cannot or will not produce an estimate, on what basis does it judge the correctness of its action, and of similar action in the future? Is the Minister and the Board aware of any legal action, actual or contemplated, by Alan Jones or on his behalf against the current publishers of "Jonestown"? Does the Minister and Board accept that if no legal action is taken by Alan Jones or on his behalf against the current publishers of "Jonestown", then the publisher will not incur any such cost?	ABC/DCITA	08/02/07
137	Tabled	Ludwig	With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate 1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be	Corporate & Business/ ABC	04/01/07

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			<p>tabled by.</p> <p>b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:</p> <p>i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.</p> <p>ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?</p> <p>c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide:</p> <p>i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension.</p> <p>ii. The reason given for granting the extension.</p> <p>iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted.</p> <p>iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.</p> <p>d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:</p> <p>i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.</p> <p>ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report.</p>		
138	ECITA 108	Parry	Revenue from Licensed Post Offices. Can you estimate what the revenue from licensed post offices would be?	Australia Post	08/02/07
139	ECITA 109	Parry	Electronic Point of Sale Equipment Do you know the cost involved for each LPO to install and have or maintain or be given, or whatever the licence agreement is? Do you have one charge for each LPO? Is it a standard charge across the nation?	Australia Post	08/02/07
140	ECITA 109	Parry	LPO Contract re Competitive Services What does that agreement [licensee's agreement with Australia Post regarding core service] specify?	Australia Post	08/02/07
141	ECITA 110	Parry	Bill EXPRESS Are you familiar with the Bank@Post scheme? They are three-year agreements, I understand. If someone had signed up for a three-year agreement and then also took on Bill EXPRESS, what would happen to the three-year agreement? Ms Button—I think, and I will have to confirm this, we do go through a process. It is a similar process to any other instance where a licensee might take on a service that is in competition with a core service. We would go through the local area manager, providing advice	Australia Post	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			and reasoning and then escalating it if necessary.		
142	ECITA 110	Parry	<p>Bill EXPRESS</p> <p>I have information that, in relation to the current payment of \$90 per month—\$1,080 per annum—to have an EPOS terminal with Australia Post, if the same LPO installed Bill EXPRESS because a certain client base needed it for other clientele who were not in competition with Australia Post, the LPO now has to pay \$7,500 per annum because they have Bill EXPRESS. Are you familiar with that fairly high increase in annual rentals or annual agreement fees?</p> <p>Ms Button—No. We will have to take that on notice. We have a different charge depending on the number of transactions a licensee might bring in through the outlet, but I do not have the details with me.</p>	Australia Post	08/02/07
143	ECITA 110	Parry	<p>Bill EXPRESS</p> <p>I understand that 10 licensed post offices in one state are affected and that, through the Licensee Advisory Council, Australia Post has been made aware of the matter but that there has been no further progress. I would appreciate it if you could look at that as well and provide that information to the committee.</p>	Australia Post	08/02/07
144	ECITA 110	Parry	<p>Bill EXPRESS</p> <p>Ms Button—There was a situation where they wanted to go through Bill EXPRESS to be able to offer Certain agency principal bills, but then I think Bill EXPRESS pulled out of it and they were able to deal Directly with the agency principal. Again, I can give you details of those.</p> <p>I would be interested—and I am sure the committee would—in any policy guidelines or Directives you may have in relation to dealing with competitors.</p>	Australia Post	08/02/07
145	ECITA 112	Conroy	<p>Principal Determination – Legal Advice</p> <p>Mr McCloskey, are you willing to table your legal advice?</p> <p>Mr McCloskey—I think we would need to take that on notice.</p>	Australia Post	08/02/07
146	ECITA 113	Conroy	<p>Medical Information previously obtained under Award Provisions</p> <p>Will some compensation claims need to be re-opened because they were determined on the basis of information that was illegally obtained? Have you taken legal advice on that?</p> <p>Ms Walsh—We have not taken legal advice on that. My initial view would be that, no, we would not, but I am happy to take that point on notice.</p>	Australia Post	08/02/07
147	ECITA 114-116	Conroy	<p>Mr Garfath</p> <p>Mr Garfath does not know what the conversation consisted of because he was not allowed to participate in it or listen to it.</p> <p>Mr McDonald—We would need to look into that, Senator. The supervisor buys him crutches and he still gets sent back to work.</p> <p>Mr McDonald—That would need to be looked at. I do not know the circumstances of that case. I am happy to take it on notice to have it looked at and to see what the context was.</p>	Australia Post	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
148	ECITA 115 - 117	Conroy	Principal Determination - FNDs They present themselves for a standard medical examination: eye test, temperature, blood pressure, stand on one leg etc. They do not allow them to treat or conduct an examination of the work injury and direct the FND in writing that they have no authorisation to forward personal, private medical information to Australia Post. Would Post seek to discipline this employee? If a person presents under your determination and follows the three points I have mentioned will Post seek to discipline the employee?	Australia Post	08/02/07
149	ECITA 117	Conroy	FNDs a. How many employees, state by state, have been directed to attend an FND under your principal determination? b. How many of these employees have made a workers' compensation claim for lost time, injury treatment or medical consultation/examination? c. How many of these employees have been denied liability for incapacitation or partial incapacitation payments with their workers' compensation claim? d. How many of these employees have exercised an appeal against Post's refusal to accept liability or make total or part workers compensation payments; and of these appeals e. And of these appeals, how many have been revoked at the reconsideration level, AAT proceedings or entered into a settlement?	Australia Post	09/02/07
150	ECITA 122	Ronaldson	Firearms Prohibition Can you provide me with correspondence that went anywhere immediately after this decision was made, whether it was to people who complained about the decision? Mr McCloskey—Certainly I can.	Australia Post	08/02/07
151	ECITA 123	Ronaldson	Tripartite meetings with AQIS/Customs Can you take on notice whether there was a tripartite meeting on 2 December 2005 at which Australia Post undertook to provide details of the proposed prohibition?	Australia Post	08/02/07
152	ECITA 126-127	Wortley	Agreement with Australian Booksellers Association What is the term of the new agreement [with the Australian Booksellers Association]? Would you be able to provide me with the term, that being the time frame, of that new agreement?	Australia Post	08/02/07
153	ECITA 127	Parry	Non-delivery of bulk mail of a political nature Could the committee receive, on notice, any information you have, in particular in relation to mail maybe of a political nature, as to the variety of complaints, if you can release that information without names, but concerning types and individuals and locations?	Australia Post	08/02/07
154	ECITA 127	Parry	Complaints by Members of Parliament If a member of parliament went to a local post office and made a formal complaint in Person to the local manager, it would stay within the confines of that post office? Mr McCloskey—That is possible. I suspect that would be the case but I do not know for certain. I would have to take that on notice.	Australia Post	08/02/07

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155	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised Post Shops Has Australia Post opened any Franchised Post shops? If so, where and when.	Australia Post	08/02/07
156	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised Post Shops Is Thornlie corporate post office in WA to be converted to franchised operations?	Australia Post	08/02/07
157	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised Post Shops What are AP's future plans for franchised postshops?	Australia Post	08/02/07
158	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised Post Shops Does AP still have four pilot franchised postshops in operation? Have the owners of those outlets indicated their willingness to purchase the outlets?	Australia Post	08/02/07
159	Tabled	Conroy	Franchised Post Shops Has Australia Post involved both the CEPU and POAAL in further discussions about the Franchised Post shop concept? Have their views been sought?	Australia Post	08/02/07
160	Tabled	Conroy	Self-Service Centres What are Australia Post's plans for self-service centres? How many trial sites are operational, how many are planned?	Australia Post	08/02/07
161	Tabled	Conroy	Self-Service Centres What assessments will be done on these outlets, and how frequently?	Australia Post	08/02/07
162	Tabled	Conroy	Self-Service Centres What impact will these centres have on staff numbers?	Australia Post	08/02/07
163	Tabled	Conroy	Street Posting Boxes What is Australia Post's policy in installing the "gold" Express Post street posting boxes?	Australia Post	08/02/07
164	Tabled	Conroy	Street Posting Boxes Australia Post has a policy of clearing street posting boxes in most city and suburban areas at an announced clearance time of 6.00pm. Obviously it would be impossible to clear all boxes at 6.00pm and the actual clearance times probably extend for a further couple of hours. However in some areas Australia Post staff commence clearing prior to 6.00pm, thus customers who post their mail close to the clearance time are depriving of having their mail picked up that day. As these customers are unaware of this fact, could not AP provide some indication on Street Posting Boxes that the mail has been cleared from that box?	Australia Post	08/02/07
165	Tabled	Conroy	Licensed Post Offices How many LPOs have been closed or converted to Community Agencies or Corporate post offices during the past year? Could the Committee be supplied with the names please?	Australia Post	08/02/07
166	Tabled	Conroy	Licensed Post Offices Is there a payment to Licensees who store depot bags or other items (not mail for delivery from that LPO) for Australia Post?	Australia Post	08/02/07
167	Tabled	Conroy	Licensed Post Offices Does AP have a policy in place which sets out a timeframe for written responses to queries, either verbal or written, from Licensees, Agents or Mail/Parcel Contractors? If not, why not?	Australia Post	08/02/07
168	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Can Mail/Parcel contractors access their own file as held by	Australia Post	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			Australia Post?		
169	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Can Australia Post confirm that all Mail Contracts are reviewed within 12 months of Tenders being called?	Australia Post	08/02/07
170	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors If not all contracts are reviewed, what percentage (or number) are reviewed?	Australia Post	08/02/07
171	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Mail Runs are supposed to be reviewed prior to Tenders being called. Can Australia Post confirm that this takes place?	Australia Post	08/02/07
172	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Does Australia Post provide details of their last review to potential tenderers of the mail run? If not, why not?	Australia Post	08/02/07
173	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Is the information supplied in Mail Contractor Tender packs accurate?	Australia Post	08/02/07
174	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Why does Clause 19.3 state that the Tenderer should not rely on the accuracy of the material provided by AP?	Australia Post	08/02/07
175	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors What accountability is there for AP to provide accurate and up-to-date information?	Australia Post	08/02/07
176	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors The tender pack contains a disclaimer noting that the information supplied by AP regarding route distance, number of delivery points and articles to be delivered is an approximate indication only and that Tenderers should make their own enquiries. What enquiries can they make? The current (existing) Contractor is not permitted to disclose any postal matters as part of his legal requirement of the contract. What extra information will AP tell the prospective tenderer other than that in the tender document?	Australia Post	08/02/07
177	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors When a Contractor realises that the distance/number of points/articles for delivery/time taken to complete the route are substantially different to the AP-advised figures, and then advises AP of the fact, what actions does AP take?	Australia Post	08/02/07
178	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors What time frame does Australia Post have in place for the processing of Clause 10 fuel price reviews for Contractors?	Australia Post	08/02/07
179	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Does AP backpay Contractors where AP does not respond in a timely manner?	Australia Post	08/02/07
180	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors When will AP implement automatic fuel price reviews for their Contractors?	Australia Post	08/02/07
181	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Has AP withheld any Clause 9 or Clause 10 mail contractor reviews for any reason? If so, what were the reasons?	Australia Post	08/02/07
182	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors Does the Australia Post whistle-blower policy cover all Contractors, Licensees, Agents and Franchisees? If so, is there any difference in the cover between these people and AP corporate employees?	Australia Post	08/02/07

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183	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors What procedures are in place to hear from a whistle blower?	Australia Post	08/02/07
184	Tabled	Conroy	Mail Contractors What protection does AP give whistle blowers, both corporate staff and contracted people?	Australia Post	08/02/07
185	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest According to Australia Post's Code of Ethics, Australia Post will avoid situations where a conflict of interest might be inferred. Can Australia Post please explain how this policy is consistent with the practice of awarding mail contracts and licensed post offices to spouses of Australia Post staff and allowing departing Australia Post staff to apply for mail contracts and licensed post offices?	Australia Post	08/02/07
186	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest Does Australia Post ensure that documents accessed or made available to Australia Post staff who may (after leaving Australia Post) tender for a mail contract or a licensed post office are also able to be accessed and made available to other tenderers?	Australia Post	08/02/07
187	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest What controls and safeguards are in place so as to ensure that ex-Australia Post staff who tender for a mail contract or licensed post office are treated no differently from other tenderers and secure no advantage as a result of having worked for Australia Post?	Australia Post	08/02/07
188	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest Is it possible for an ex-Australia Post staff member to be awarded a mail contract or licensed post office by a former colleague at Australia Post with whom they worked?	Australia Post	08/02/07
189	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest What controls and safeguards are in place so as to ensure that a company controlled by an Australia Post staff member does not tender for a mail contract or licensed post office?	Australia Post	08/02/07
190	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest What controls and safeguards are in place so as to ensure the confidentiality of tenders for mail contracts and licensed post offices?	Australia Post	08/02/07
191	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest Has any Australia Post staff member been warned, disciplined or dismissed over a conflict of interest in relation to a mail contract, a licensed post office or a tender for either? If so, how many, what action was taken against the relevant staff members and what was the nature of the conflict of interest?	Australia Post	08/02/07
192	Tabled	Conroy	Conflict of Interest Is Australia Post aware of any staff member receiving a gift, benefit or payment in connection with a mail contract, a licensed post office or a tender for either? If so, how many staff members are involved, what was the nature of the gift, payment or benefit, how was it connected with a mail contract, licensed post office or tender and what action did Australia Post take in each instance?	Australia Post	08/02/07
193	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post How many Australia Post senior appointments are made from outside the postal industry? Who are they?	Australia Post	08/02/07
194	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post	Australia Post	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			Are AP senior managers/executives on contract? What level of achievement do they have to obtain to have their contracts renewed?		
195	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post How are salaries set for AP senior managers/executives? What performance levels are measured and by whom?	Australia Post	08/02/07
196	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post Does the Minister approve AP Directors Fees amounts?	Australia Post	08/02/07
197	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post Who approves/authorises pay levels for senior managers/executives?	Australia Post	08/02/07
198	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post What role does seniority play in AP appointments and salaries?	Australia Post	08/02/07
199	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post What initiatives has Australia Post put in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its delivery fleet?	Australia Post	08/02/07
200	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post A large portion of AP's delivery fleet is contracted out. Has AP considered giving incentives to tendering contractors who use environmentally friendly vehicles?	Australia Post	08/02/07
201	Tabled	Conroy	Australia Post Will Australia Post freely disclose upon request any documents relating to reserved services?	Australia Post	08/02/07
202	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms Last estimates we discussed Post's policy that it would no longer accept firearms or part of firearms for post in international mail. This is a decision that has caused licensed gun owners and dealers great concern. The Minister stated that "of course there is some consultation going on...We are having a look at what might be done by way of a separate mail stream, for example. Also I am about to seek the advice of the Attorney-General as to how there may be complementarity between states. The quite significant issue that Post has now identified of domestic carriage of firearms might well infringe state and territory legislation is another stream to the problem. But we are having a look at it, we are seeking some advice in relation to it, and Post is cooperating with respect to seeing if we can get a better and much more seamless way of dealing with it." Can Post update the Committee in relation to this issue?	Australia Post	08/02/07
203	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms What consultations have taken place? Who has been involved?	Australia Post	09/02/07
204	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms What advice has the Attorney-General provided?	Australia Post	08/02/07
205	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms Has the option of a separate mail stream been considered?	Australia Post	14/02/07
206	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms Why is Australia Post able to carry swords and knives but not firearm parts?	Australia Post	08/02/07
207	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms Why does Australia Post cite State and Territories Laws with regard to import/export? Don't the requirements of the	Australia Post	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			Commonwealth Customs Act take precedence?		
208	Tabled	Conroy	Firearms Does the Australia Post's policy draw any distinction between mail sent to licensed firearms Dealers and licensed shooters?	Australia Post	08/02/07
209	Tabled	Marshall	AIRC case ref 2006/2742 Australia Post v CEPU (AG 837636 PR97421) Why did Australia Post bring this case before the AIRC?	Australia Post	08/02/07
210	Tabled	Marshall	AIRC case ref 2006/2742 Australia Post v CEPU (AG 837636 PR97421) How much has been spent by Australia Post on this case to date?	Australia Post	08/02/07
211	Tabled	Marshall	AIRC case ref 2006/2742 Australia Post v CEPU (AG 837636 PR97421) Who provided Legal Services for Australia Post and how were they selected?	Australia Post	08/02/07
212	Tabled	Marshall	AIRC case ref 2006/2742 Australia Post v CEPU (AG 837636 PR97421) At what stage is this case currently at - has there been an outcome of this case?	Australia Post	08/02/07
213	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney What is the current situation with regard to Australia Post's actions against employee Peter Viney?	Australia Post	08/02/07
214	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney Why did Australia Post seek to punish this employee?	Australia Post	08/02/07
215	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney How much has been spent by Australia Post on this case to date (both in the AIRC and the Federal Court)?	Australia Post	08/02/07
216	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney In light of this expenditure, is Australia Post reviewing its approach to industrial issues?	Australia Post	08/02/07
217	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney Who provided Legal Services for Australia Post in regard to this matter and how were they selected?	Australia Post	08/02/07
218	Tabled	Marshall	Proceedings against employee Peter Viney At what stage is this case currently at – has there been an outcome of this case?	Australia Post	08/02/07
219	Tabled	Marshall	Use of company doctors for employees What is the current policy regarding employees choice of medical practitioner when claiming sick leave or workcover benefits?	Australia Post	08/02/07
220	Tabled	Marshall	Use of company doctors for employees On what grounds does Australia Post believe it is reasonable to force employees to see medical practitioners as specified by the company?	Australia Post	08/02/07
221	Tabled	Marshall	Use of company doctors for employees How does this practice benefit Australia Post and its employees?	Australia Post	08/02/07
222	Tabled	Ludwig	With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate 1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains	Corporate & Business/ Australia Post	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.</p> <p>b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? <p>c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. <p>d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 		
223	ECITA 134	Conroy	Was it [research regarding the long term psychological impact of the media on children, families and society] in your budget submission?	ACMA	08/02/07
224	Tabled	Conroy	In the past the Australian Communications Authority included extensive data in their annual report about the number of complaints to the TIO during the financial year relating to industry codes for which the TIO had accepted the conferral of powers. This data is not included in ACMA's 05-06 Annual Report. I'm interested in why this data, that had been provided at least as far back as 2002 is now not being provided by ACMA?	ACMA	09/02/07
225	Tabled	Conroy	Is ACMA able to provide this information on notice? I am particularly interested in updated data for what was Table 7.2 in the 2004-05 ACA Annual Report titled "TIO complaints – code breach complaints by code, 2002-03 to 2004-05".	ACMA	09/02/07
226	Tabled	Conroy	If you could also provide a reason that this information has not been made available in ACMA's annual report that would also be useful.	ACMA	09/02/07
227	Tabled	Conroy	How many periodic reports does the ACMA require from	ACMA	16/05/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			Industry? a. Please provide details of Reporting Obligations. b. How many exemptions from reporting obligations has the Authority granted?		
228	Tabled	Conroy	How many of these reports are Telstra specific?	ACMA	16/05/07
229	Tabled	Conroy	Is the Authority aware of any exemptions granted to telecommunications companies from the requirements of the Customer Service Guarantee? a. If yes, please provide details of these exemptions.	ACMA	23/02/07
230	Tabled	Conroy	On what basis have these exemptions been granted?	ACMA	23/02/07
231	Tabled	Conroy	Are there explicit rules or principles upon which exemptions under the Customer Service Guarantee are provided? a. If yes, what do these rules provide?	ACMA	23/02/07
232	Tabled	Conroy	What impact do these exemptions have on the customers of the telecommunications companies who have been exempted from the requirements?	ACMA	23/02/07
233	Tabled	Conroy	Is the Authority concerned that the number of exemptions granted from the requirements of the Customer Service Guarantee may suggest that the regime is too onerous?	ACMA	23/02/07
234	Tabled	Conroy	Why are exemptions to the requirements of the Customer Service Guarantee not made public?	ACMA	23/02/07
235	Tabled	Conroy	Can ACMA update the Committee on its consideration Prime Television's application to remove the Shire of Cobar from Prime's Southern NSW licence area?	ACMA	08/02/08
236	Tabled	Conroy	Back in July the Minister announced that ACMA would be directed to conduct a review of whether the free to air television code of practice is operating to provide appropriate community safeguards in relation to reality TV programming. Can ACMA update the Committee on the progress of this review? Has it commenced?	ACMA	17/05/07
237	Tabled	Conroy	Has there been any community consultation?	ACMA	17/05/07
238	Tabled	Conroy	When does ACMA expect to conclude its review?	ACMA	17/05/07
239	Tabled	Conroy	What options does ACMA have at its disposal if the review finds that the existing code is not up to scratch?	ACMA	17/05/07
240	Tabled	Conroy	I have received extensive correspondence from a group from Western Australia known as RIGHT- RADIO INTERFERENCE GROUP _HAMERSLEY TOWERS. Is ACMA familiar with the concerns of this group?	ACMA	19/02/07
241	Tabled	Conroy	They claim that up to 150,000 residents are affected by interference at the Hamersley site. They say that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • radio interference is causing a corduroy type of pattern on analogue TV; • ABC radio can be heard on landline phone conversations and • Electronic equipment like garage doors and security system malfunctions. Has ACMA investigated these claims? Are they valid?	ACMA	19/02/07
242	Tabled	Conroy	What steps is ACMA taking to address the matter?	ACMA	19/02/07
243	Tabled	Conroy	I am advised that the Narrowband Area Service Stations – Apparatus Licensing instrument requires a minimum clearance of 400 m to the nearest radio receiver. Can ACMA confirm that at Hamersley the clearance is only 200 m to the fence line?	ACMA	19/02/07
244	Tabled	Conroy	Will ACMA conduct a survey for interference in Perth's Northern suburbs centred on the Hamersley transmitter site?	ACMA	19/02/07
245	Tabled	Conroy	I understand that ACMA is considering the Perth Licence	ACMA	19/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			Area Plan on 16th November. Will the ACMA force the ABC to reduce the power, so that the field strength measured at the fence line is maximum 1000 milliVolts per metre, as specified in the ACMA's technical planning guidelines?		
246	Tabled	Conroy	Can ACMA confirm that it has advised 2ME and NTC that they are not compliant with the Ministerial Direction on non-BSB broadcasting of 2003?	ACMA	07/05/07
247	Tabled	Conroy	Can ACMA explain why it has taken this view?	ACMA	07/05/07
248	Tabled	Conroy	Did ACMA check licensees (immediately after the deadline) who claimed they complied by the deadline and went on to build their larger towers after the deadline which gave them over 18 month's additional time?	ACMA	07/05/07
249	Tabled	Conroy	Why was the Ministerial Direction "so open and broad"? Why did it not give specific transmitter minimum output power requirements or specific minimum antenna height requirements and other specifics?	ACMA	07/05/07
250	Tabled	Fielding	Do all Federal Government-funded libraries have Internet filters installed on their PCs to protect children from pornographic content? Which libraries do and which do not? If some libraries do not have filters installed, what is the justification for this?	ACMA	04/04/07
251	Tabled	Fielding	A recent study by the University of Western Sydney shows the average age for a child to first own a mobile phone is nine. You would be aware that 3G phones can now access the internet, transmit and receive video and photos and so on. What is the Government doing to ensure that children are protected from violent and pornographic content?	ACMA	18/05/07
252	Tabled	Fielding	I understand the Government has put interim restrictions on mobile phone networks so that R-rated material is not available to people under the age of 18. I also understand it is up to the mobile phone networks to determine how they will verify the age of people accessing these services. How do the networks verify ages and prevent children accessing this content? Could I please have a copy of the detail of how those safeguards work?	ACMA	18/05/07
253	Tabled	Fielding	How will this change with the Government's recent promise of legislation to extend content safeguards?	ACMA	04/04/07
254	Tabled	Fielding	Many parents would be buying their children a phone to increase their safety, but they may not think of all the associated downsides for children in owning a phone. What are you doing to ensure parents are aware of some of the risks of mobile phone ownership, like excessive debt, SMS bullying or access to internet pornography?	ACMA	18/05/07
255	Tabled	Fielding	Have you done any research on how many parents the Government reaches with information on Internet safety? Please provide a copy of any research.	ACMA	04/04/07
256	Tabled	Fielding	Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has spoken about the problem of children having an Internet addiction involving things like online games. Has the Government done research on this issue? If so, please provide a copy. What is the Government doing to address this problem?	ACMA	09/03/07
257	Tabled	Ludwig	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: 	ACMA	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by. b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 		
258	Tabled	Conroy	<p><u>Clever Networks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department confirm that the government's Clever Networks program was intended to be delivered through matching Commonwealth and State government funding for Innovative Services Delivery? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The State Government's were expected to play a significant part in both funding and proposal identification for Clever Networks weren't they? b. Were State Government's consulted about this program before it was publicly announced? 	Access & Consumer	09/02/07
259	Tabled	Conroy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The program guidelines for Clever Networks were formally launched on 31 August this year, is that correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Were the State governments consulted about the form of these guidelines? 	Access & Consumer	09/02/07
260	Tabled	Conroy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. These guidelines (for Clever Networks) set a closing date for State government's to submit funding proposals of late November didn't they? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Were State government's consulted about the window for submitting proposals under Clever Networks? 	Access & Consumer	08/03/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. When did the Department realise that Victoria would be unable to participate in this program within these submission dates by virtue of the fact that the government would be in caretaker mode in the lead up to the November 25 election for the majority of the submission period? c. The date of the Victorian election and the caretaker period have been known for quite some time haven't they? d. It would be reasonable to expect that the Victorian government would have alerted the Department to an inconsistency with the caretaker period and the Clever Networks submission timetable if it was consulted about the program, wouldn't it? e. A fairly fundamental problem with this program could have been avoided if the Department had adequately consulted with its State counter-parts, is that fair to say? f. What is the Department now going to do to remedy this problem? 		
261	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Underground facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many staff in the Department are tasked with reviewing the data provided under Clause 50, Schedule 3, <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i>? b. Approximately how many hours are spent per year within the Department considering this data? c. What uses has the Department put this data to in the past year? d. e Department aware that according to Telstra more than 99% of new communications infrastructure is now installed underground? e. Does the Department believe this reporting requirement is still necessary? 	Access & Consumer	15/03/07
262	Tabled	Conroy	<p>In answer to question on notice No.110 from additional estimates the ABC stated that in 2005/06 the ABC is budgeting to spend \$80.2 million on analogue transmission costs.</p> <p>In answer to question no.203 SBS stated that it spends just over 23 million on analogue transmission costs.</p> <p>In a speech on March 14 2006, the Minister stated that: "The Government already spends around \$75 million annually contributing to the simulcasting costs of the national broadcasters and supporting the digital rollout for commercial operators in regional Australia." Can the department reconcile these figures?</p>	Content & Media	09/02/07
263	Tabled	Conroy	<p>DIGITAL RADIO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Government plan to for close down high powered AM transmitters in capital cities when the programs have been duplicated on digital radio? 2. Does the Government have any plans to use high powered transmitters to test DRM stereo digital radio in WA regional areas? 	Content & Media	27/03/07
264	Tabled	Conroy	<p>CHANNEL A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Government intend to require the acquirer of the channel A license to carry community TV? 2. The recently passed legislation allows ACMA to set 	Content & Media	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>preconditions for participation in the allocation of channel A and the Minister may direct ACMA in this regard. Can the Department explain what sorts of preconditions are envisaged? When will these preconditions be made public?</p> <p>3. The legislation states that the channel B licensee must commence operations within 18 months. In relation to channel A, ACMA and the Minister can specify the roll out obligations as a licence condition. What roll out obligations are envisaged for Channel A? Can the Department explain why a different approach is being pursued in relation to roll out of channel A and channel B?</p> <p>4. I just want to clarify the programming options for the channel B licence. The only in-home services that could be provided are data casting services is that correct? Or is it broader than that?</p>		
265	Tabled	Conroy	<p>DIGITAL TV Is it Government policy that the spectrum used for analogue broadcasting will be returned to the Commonwealth at switch off? Does this happen automatically?</p>	Content & Media	08/02/07
266	Tabled	Conroy	<p>DCITA- LOCAL CONTENT REVIEW I understand the 4.5 hour requirement will be subject to review by ACMA. What criteria will ACMA take into account in determining whether 4.5 hours is appropriate?</p>	Content & Media	09/02/07
267	Tabled	Conroy	<p>ANTISIPHONING The Minister has announced the Government's intention to introduce a use it or lose it scheme from 1 January 2007. Does the Government have any intention of putting the rules governing such a scheme in legislation, regulation or some other instrument?</p>	Content & Media	09/02/07
268	Tabled	Conroy	<p>PROTECTING FAMILIES ONLINE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I would like to ask about the Protecting Families Online initiative announced by the Government in June. \$93.3 million was promised for a national filter scheme over three years. How much money has been allocated to the scheme in each year i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09? 2. What assumptions has the Government made about the take-up of the free filters? How many does the Government expect to be taken up in 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09? 3. How much money has been allocated for the advertising this initiative? 4. Over what timeframe will the advertising money be spent? 5. Is any legislation required to give effect the Protecting Families Online announcement? If so what is the nature of the legislation? The Government announced in June that it will conduct another trial of ISP filtering technology in Tasmania. Has this trial commenced yet? 6. ACMA will also be required to provide an annual report on international trends in ISP level filtering. When is the first report expected? 7. I understand that the Department paid Ovum Limited more than \$200,000 to prepare a report. Could you 	Content & Media	04/04/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			outline the nature of the work done by Ovum? 8. Will this report be publicly released?		
269	Tabled	Conroy	<p>DIGITAL CHANNEL B</p> <p>I have a number of questions about the operation of the access provisions relating to Channel B datacasting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the current exemption of broadcasting infrastructure from Part XIC of the TPA (which is due to expire at the end of this year) be extended – or will the Channel B owner be required to adhere to both a Part XIC access regime and the diversity of content access regime? 2. What sort of discretion will the ACCC have in considering ‘diversity of content’ undertakings? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Will the ACCC be required to tick off as a matter of course any undertaking that is in line with the guidelines? b. Or can it take into account the market position of each individual company that lodges an undertaking? 3. What, if any, jurisdiction or experience does the ACCC have to judge ‘diversity of content’? 4. Can the ACCC’s decisions on ‘diversity of content’ undertakings be appealed? 5. How long will the ACCC have to consider ‘diversity of content’ undertakings? 6. When does the Minister believe that Channel B can now be auctioned given the introduction of these pre-bid guideline-making and undertaking processes? 7. Can the Minister guarantee that the ‘diversity of content’ access regime will not prevent the owner of Channel B from having exclusive content? 8. Can the Minister give any indication as to how many individual channels (or what percentage of the channels) that she considers that the purchaser of Channel B should be able to use for their own content without have to provide access to others <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For example, could you even guarantee that a purchaser would have exclusive access to say 4 out of 15 channels? 9. Will the ACCC be required to keep any pre-bid ‘diversity of content’ undertakings secret including the fact that a company has lodged an undertaking – given that this information will be so sensitive in a pre-bid environment? 10. Will the ‘diversity of content’ undertakings require access providers to set out the price and non-price terms and conditions of access to the ACCC before bidding for the spectrum? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How can they do this when they will not know how much they need to pay for the spectrum? 11. Has the Government got any advice on the financial impact of the ‘diversity of content’ access regime on the likely revenue they will receive from the Channel B auction? 	Content & Media	16/05/07
270	Tabled	Ludwig	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What date the agency’s 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: 	Corporate & Business/ NetAlert	08/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.</p> <p>b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? <p>c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. The reason given for granting the extension. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. A copy of the Minister's statement. <p>d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 		
271	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Metropolitan Broadband Connect</i></p> <p>I have a number of questions for the Department about the government's Metropolitan Broadband Connect Program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When was this program announced by the Government? When was a discussion paper seeking input into how this program should operate released? When were the guidelines for this program released? How long has the program actually been operating for? How many providers are currently registered with the program? Who is currently participating in this program? The annual funding allocations, including the cost for administering the programme, are \$10 million in 2005-06, \$20 million in 2006-07, and \$20 million in 2007-08. How much has been spent under this program to date? Is the amount that has been spent under this program to date consistent with funding allocations for the program made under the 2005 Federal Budget? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If not, has the Department investigated why this is the case? Why isn't the program working? 	Infrastructure & Security Division	15/05/07
272	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Metropolitan Broadband Connect</i></p> <p>I refer you to comments made by the Minister in a Press</p>	Infrastructure & Security	07/05/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>Release on 9 August 2006 that:</p> <p><i>The Government is working in both outer metropolitan areas and rural, regional and remote areas to ensure these fast speeds are available to all Australians. This number is growing exponentially as carriers enable more and more exchanges with the backing of the Australian Government's \$878 million Broadband Connect funding and our \$50 million Metropolitan Broadband Connect program.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Metropolitan Broadband Connect program designed to enable exchanges in metropolitan areas? 2. How many exchanges have been enabled under Metropolitan Broadband Connect? 	Division	
273	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Metropolitan Broadband Connect</i></p> <p>I also refer you to the following comment made by the Minister in the Senate shortly after this press release that</p> <p>Quote:</p> <p><i>"The government's metropolitan broadband black spots program is being rolled out. For Senator Lundy's information, Telstra are in fact participating in filling these black spots around metropolitan areas."</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is Telstra registered as either an infrastructure provider or a service provider under Metropolitan Broadband Connect? <p>As at 11 October the only service provider registered is:</p> <p>Allegro Networks Pty Ltd Email: sales@allegro.com.au Phone: 1300 85 85 35 Fax: (07) 5574 0744 Website: www.allegro.com.au Address: PO Box 5336, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld 9726</p> <p><u>Service Area:</u></p> <p><i>Wireless</i> - The Gold Coast area, from Palm Beach in the south to Yatala in the north and reaching east to Tallai, Mudgerabah and Nerang.</p> <p>http://www.dcita.gov.au/communications_for_business/funding_programs_and_support/metropolitan_broadband_connect/customer_information/registered_metro_broadband_connect_service_providers</p> <p>And there are no infrastructure providers registered</p> <p>At this stage, no Metropolitan Broadband Connect Infrastructure Providers have been registered under the program. Please return to this page regularly for updates on providers operating in your area.</p> <p>http://www.dcita.gov.au/communications_for_business/funding_programs_and_support/metropolitan_broadband_connect/provider_overview_information/registered_metro_broadband_connect_Infrastructure_Providers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. So was the Minister correct to say that <i>Telstra are in fact participating in filling these black spots around metropolitan areas.</i>?" 3. Has the Department discussed Telstra's non-participation in this program with the company? 	Infrastructure & Security Division	16/05/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>4. The prime objective of MBC was to provide broadband to people affected by either RIMS or Pair Gains isn't that right?</p> <p>5. And yet Telstra isn't participating in the program? Does the Department believe that will impact on the effectiveness of the program?</p>		
274	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Broadband Connect</i></p> <p>1. When Telstra's Fibre to the Node proposal collapsed in August of this year the Minister stated that Quote it is 'one of the biggest furphies' that 'Australia's broadband speeds are shackled to 256 kilobits per second.' and that in reality, people in metropolitan Australia have access to vastly faster broadband speeds. Is that still the government's position?</p> <p>2. Given the Minister's view, can the Department explain why the program guidelines for 'Broadband Connect' describe a 'Metropolitan Comparable Broadband Service' as: <i>A Higher Bandwidth Service that provides Internet access at a peak Data Speed of at least 256kbps/64kbps...</i> See page 8 of Broadband Connect Program Guidelines: http://www.dcita.gov.au/data/assets/file/39659/Broadband_Connect_Guidelines_06_07.rtf?</p> <p>3. If the Minister is right in insisting that everyone in metropolitan Australia has access to multi-mega bit broadband services, why does the Broadband Connect Program define a 'Metro-Comparable Broadband Service' as a 256kbps service?</p> <p>4. Either the Minister is wrong about higher broadband speeds prevailing in the cities or the Broadband Connect guidelines are designed to dud people in rural and regional Australia with a service that is not genuinely 'Metro-comparable'. Does the Department have a view on this?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	09/02/07
275	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Universal Service Obligation</i></p> <p>1. Does the government believe that the Universal Service Obligation needs to be adequately funded in order to deliver quality services to Australian rural and regional areas?</p> <p>2. On Monday 7 August the Minister said QUOTE "The Government will not be changing the USO. It was reviewed recently and will not be changed." Is this still the government's position?</p> <p>3. How is the current USO calculated?</p> <p>4. When was the last time that the cost of the USO calculated? a. What was the finding of this modelling?</p> <p>5. Is it accurate to say that the total cost of the USO for the purposes of calculating the USO subsidy was arbitrarily set at less than half the cost that was estimated by the ACA?</p> <p>6. Is it accurate to say that the cost of the USO is ratcheted down by 8% per year is that correct?</p> <p>7. How was the value of this annual reduction in the cost</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>of the USO calculated?</p> <p>a This reduction value assumes a reduction in the cost of communications assets in the order of 5% pa. Is this correct?</p> <p>b Is the Department aware of ABS data on the cost of communications assets that shows the actual decline in costs being a fraction of this decline?</p>		
276	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Universal Service Obligation</i></p> <p>Was there ever any attempt to ensure that the economic modelling used to calculate the cost of the USO was consistent with the modelling used to calculate Telstra's network costs for access pricing?</p> <p>a. In practice over the past 10 years there has been recognition of the need for cross-subsidies from city areas to keep rural and regional prices low. So the pricing of access to Telstra's network, especially in city areas has effectively worked in tandem in keeping prices of services in rural and regional Australia low. I'm trying to ascertain whether the Department has ever explicitly considered the interaction of the regulated cost of the USO and regulated access pricing?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	09/02/07
277	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Universal Service Obligation</i></p> <p>1. If there was a short-fall in the USO Subsidy – who would fund that? How?</p> <p>a. Telstra would have to fund it wouldn't it? Most likely via subsidising rural services by charging extra in other areas is that reasonable to assume?</p> <p>2. Hasn't the ACCC moved to stop this by refusing to allow Telstra to impose averaged wholesale pricing for access to its network? Does the Department believe this has implications for the sustainability of the USO?</p> <p>a. Telstra has stated in the past that QUOTE: <i>"If the ACCC keeps cutting prices in the cities for wholesale customers but still expects Telstra to continue to fund the revenue shortfall for high cost customers in the bush, something has to give at some stage. Telstra's shareholders cannot be expected to have to bear the burden of these high cost rural customers while the ACCC is continually reducing the prices that Telstra's competitors pay in the cities."</i> What is the Department's response to this statement?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07
278	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Universal Service Obligation</i></p> <p>1. Is the government aware of the emerging trend of the installation of alternative access infrastructure (eg FTTH) in new housing estates?</p> <p>2. Has the department considered the operation of the USO in light of this trend?</p> <p>3. Would Telstra still be obliged to provide a STS to a property in a housing estate in which alternative access infrastructure exists?</p> <p>4. Does the USO take into account the considerably different economics of installing a STS in a single</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	09/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			house in a housing estate in which alternative access infrastructure exists?		
279	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>FTTN Collapse</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still on Broadband, when Telstra's Fibre to the Node plans collapsed, the Minister stated that she would 'consider the implications' of the termination of the proposal. Has the Department been asked to provide the Minister with any advice on the reasons for the collapse of Telstra's FTTN proposal? 2. Is it still the government's position that despite the collapse of Telstra's FTTN plans, there is no need for regulatory reform in the Australian telecommunications sector and that the current regime should continue until the scheduled 2009 review? 	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07
280	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Price Controls</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Department's rationale for applying retail telecommunications price controls to Telstra and not to other providers? 2. In the Department's view, does the application of retail price controls to Telstra and not its competitors prevent Telstra from matching competitor price offerings? 3. Are Telstra competitors able to offer substantially higher line rentals and lower call prices than Telstra is able to under the current price control regime? 4. Are Telstra competitors able to offer substantially higher call prices and lower line rental charges than Telstra is able to under the current price control regime? 5. Is the Department concerned that applying the retail price controls on a selective basis could distort the competitive process? 	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07
281	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Priority Assistance (Carrier licence conditions Schedule 4, Part (4)(a))</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is Telstra currently the only telecommunications company obliged under its licence conditions to provide priority assistance services within the meaning of Schedule 4, Part (4)(a) of its Carrier Licence to its customers? 2. Is it correct that the <i>ACIF C609:2003 Priority Assistance for Life Threatening Medical Conditions Code</i> applies only to service providers who voluntarily sign on to the code? 3. What is the Department's rationale for applying mandatory priority assistance obligations on Telstra, but no other service providers? 4. Is the Department concerned that applying these obligations on a selective basis could distort the competitive process? 	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07
282	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>National Reliability Framework</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it correct that Telstra is the only telecommunications company obliged under its licence conditions to comply with the National Reliability Framework? 2. Is the Department aware of other telecommunications companies operating fixed line networks in Australia? 3. What is the Department's rationale for not applying 	Infrastructure & Security Division	11/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>the requirements of the National Reliability Framework or other broadly equivalent reliability obligations on non-Telstra fixed line networks in Australia?</p> <p>4. Is the Department concerned that applying these obligations on a selective basis could distort the competitive process?</p>		
283	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Customer Service Guarantee</i></p> <p>1. Is the Department aware of any exemptions granted to telecommunications companies from the requirements of the Customer Service Guarantee?</p> <p>a. Please provide details of these exemptions.</p> <p>2. On what basis have these exemptions been granted?</p> <p>3. Are there an established and consistent set of principles upon which exemptions under the Customer Service Guarantee are provided?</p> <p>4. What impact do these exemptions have on the customers of the telecommunications companies who have been exempted from the requirements?</p> <p>5. Is the government concerned that the number of exemptions granted from the requirements of the Customer Service Guarantee may suggest that the regime is too onerous?</p> <p>6. Is the government concerned that the granting of these exemptions to selected telecommunications companies could distort the competitive process?</p> <p>7. Why are exemptions under the Customer Service Guarantee not made public?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	12/02/07
284	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Regulatory Impact</i></p> <p>Given the significant regulatory discretion given to the ACCC to deal with telecommunications issues under the <i>Trade Practices Act</i>, has the Department considered requiring the Commission to produce a Regulatory Impact Statement for enduring regulatory interventions such as the imposition of record keeping rules and mandatory information requests?</p>	Infrastructure & Security Division	09/02/07
285	Tabled	Conroy	<p><i>Sunset Clauses</i></p> <p>1. How many times has the Minister been required to make a decision regarding the sunset of communications regulation?</p> <p>2. How many times has the Minister made a decision to allow communications regulation to lapse under a sunset clause?</p> <p>3. How many times has the Minister made a decision to revoke communications regulation under a sunset clause?</p>	Legal	09/02/07
286	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>(1) What sum did the department spend during 2005-2006 on external</p> <p>(a) barristers and</p> <p>(b) solicitors (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).</p> <p>(2) What sum did the department spend on internal legal services.</p> <p>(3) What is the department's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.</p>	Legal	09/03/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
287	Tabled	Ludwig	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What date the Department's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by. b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 	Corporate & Business	08/02/07
288	Tabled	Ludwig	<p>With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Minister's on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06). 2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at. 3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities. 4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3. 	Corporate & Business	09/02/07
289	Tabled	Ludwig	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 	Corporate & Business/	10/02/07

QoN No.	Hansard ref.	Senator	Question	Agency/ Division	Date rec'd
			<p>2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by. b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i>? If so, could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report. 	Telstra	
290	Tabled	Webber	<p>Does the Minister share the view of the author of the executive summary into the NSW police report on the Cronulla riot, that media conduct contributed to the Cronulla riot?</p> <p>Does the Minister accept that Alan Jones was prominent in calling for the public demonstration that became known as the Cronulla riot?</p> <p>Does the Minister endorse Alan Jones' reported comment that "this Sunday every Aussie in the Shire get down to North Cronulla to support the Leb and wog bashing day"?</p>	Content & Media	08/02/07
291	Tabled	Webber	Does the Minister accept that the great majority of the public believes the ABC to be independent and unbiased?	Content & Media	09/02/07