

**From:** [Craig McMurtrie](#)  
**To:** [Gavin Fang](#)  
**Cc:** [Rebecca Matthews](#); [John Lyons](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fed Budget -- News team comms  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 May 2018 10:21:40 PM

---

There's a 10am News leadership huddle already scheduled. We can use that to discuss. I've asked Gaven if he wants to loop in state eds and senior CAFF eps. We'll need to crack on with post budget coverage first thing. C.

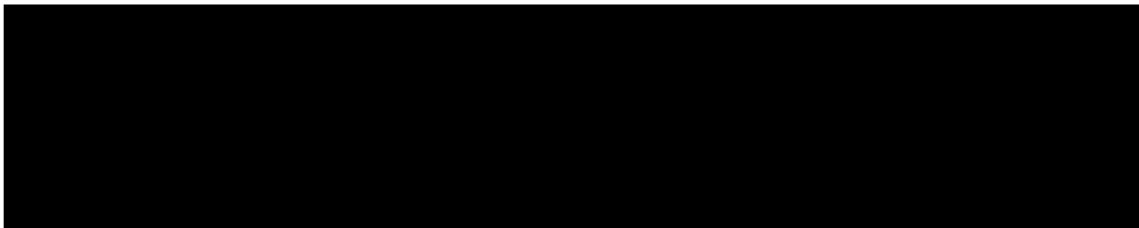
Sent from my iPhone

On 8 May 2018, at 9:57 pm, Gavin Fang <[Fang.Gavin@abc.net.au](mailto:Fang.Gavin@abc.net.au)> wrote:

Craig.. are we having a briefing about this first thing. I'll also get questions in the morning about what it means.

---

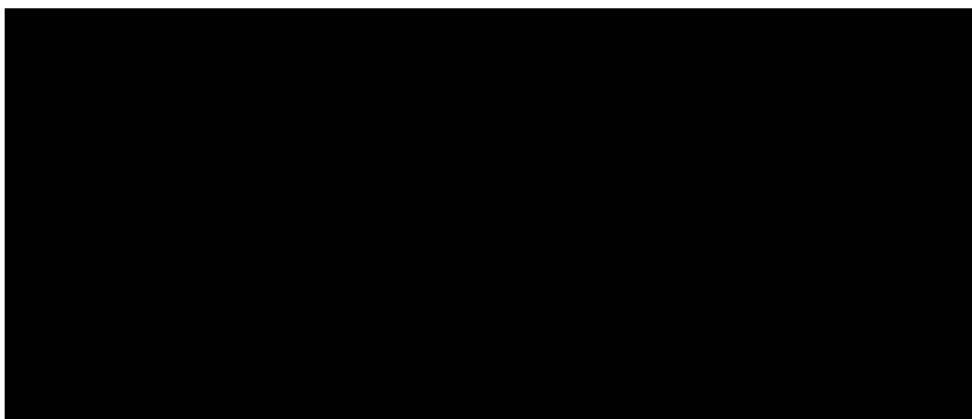
**From:** Craig McMurtrie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 May 2018 9:47:56 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Matthews  
**Cc:** John Lyons; Gavin Fang  
**Subject:** Re: Fed Budget -- News team comms



47C Deliberative  
material

Sent from my iPhone

On 8 May 2018, at 9:09 pm, Rebecca Matthews  
<[Matthews.Rebecca@abc.net.au](mailto:Matthews.Rebecca@abc.net.au)> wrote:



47C Deliberative  
material



Out of scope  
of request





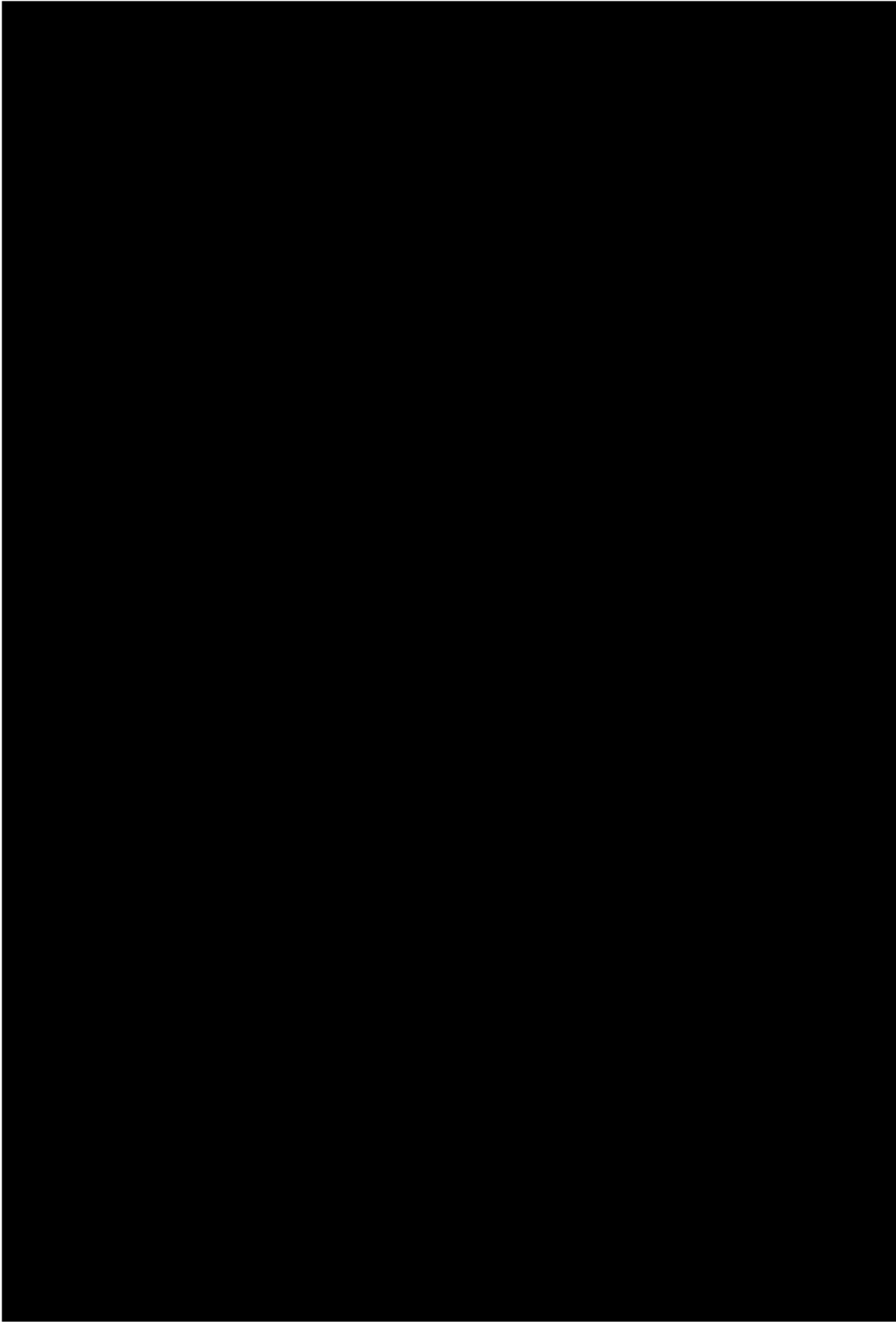


Out of scope  
of request

47C  
Deliberative  
material

Out of scope  
of request

Out of scope  
of request



Out of scope  
of request

**From:** [Craig McMurtrie](#)  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Well done!  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 May 2018 10:22:13 PM

---

Possibly invite state eds on the line too? C.

Sent from my iPhone

> On 8 May 2018, at 10:19 pm, Craig McMurtrie <McMurtrie.Craig@abc.net.au> wrote:

>

> Gaven

>

> Is it worth turning tomorrow's 10am News leadership into a briefing for all the senior leaders (possibly senior CAFF eps too?) on the budget outcome? [REDACTED] C.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

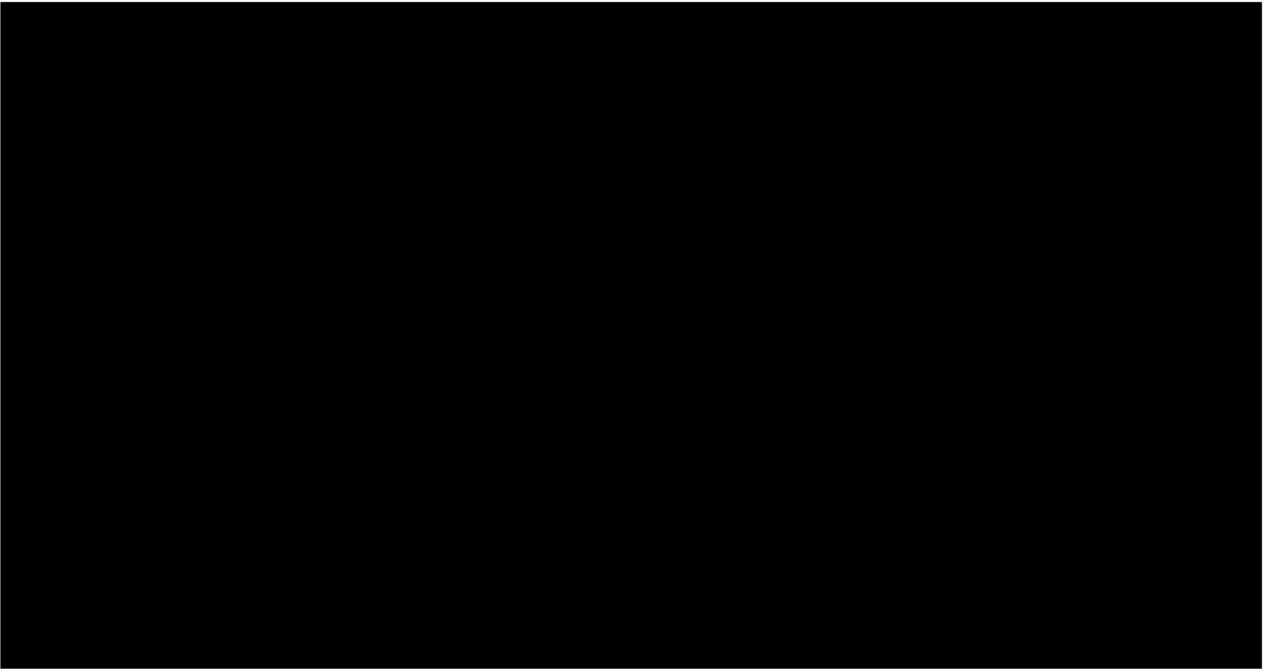
>

47C  
Deliberative  
material

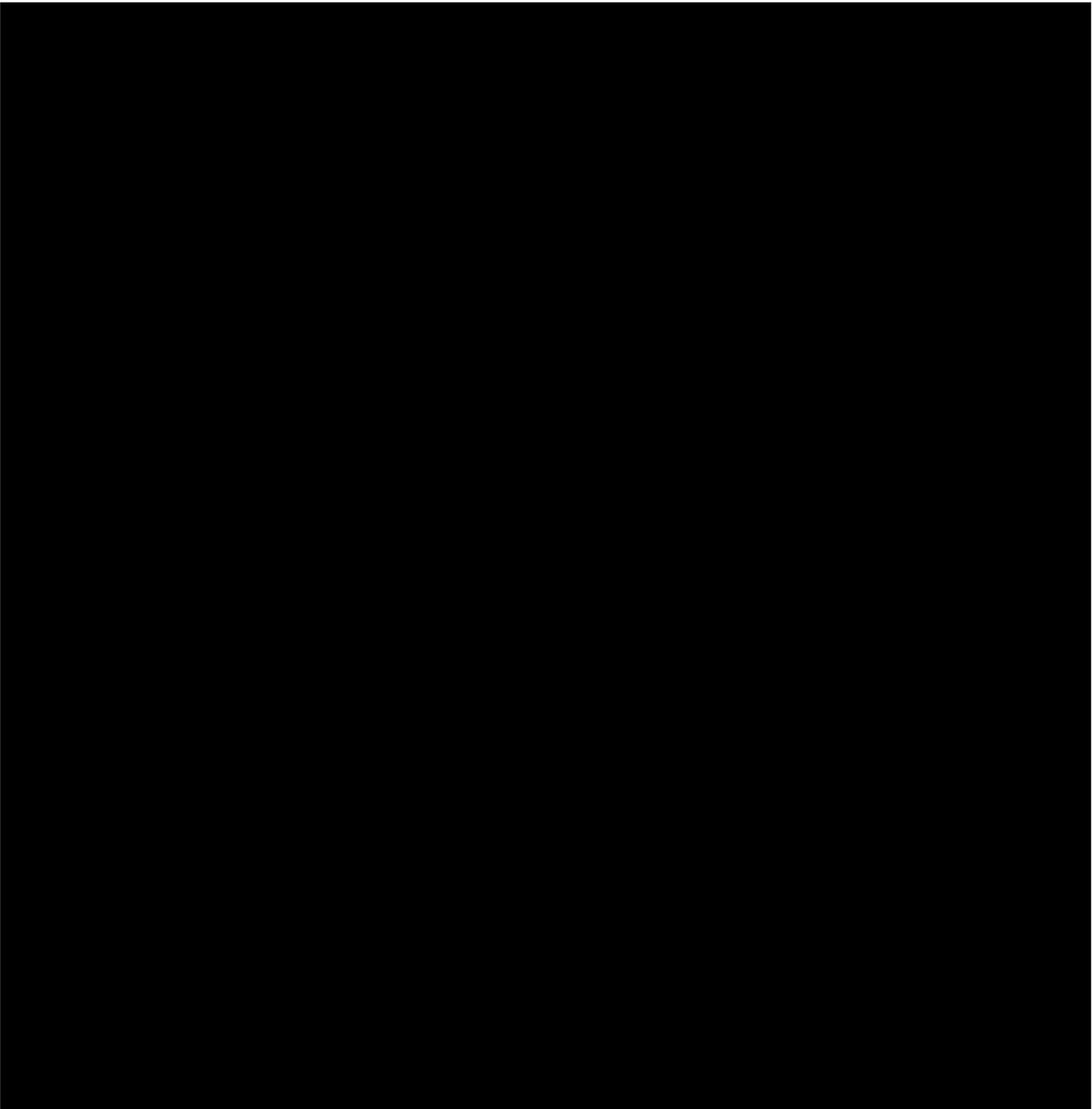
Out of scope  
of request



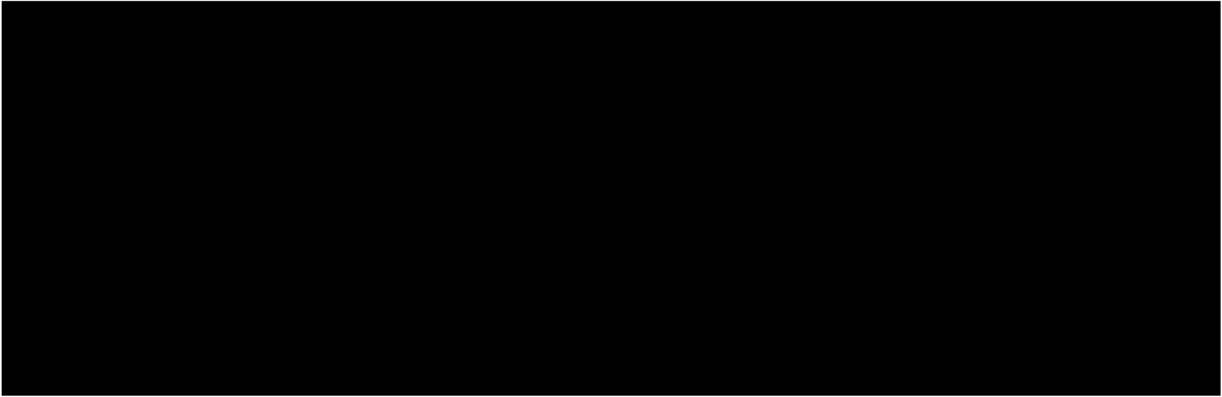
47C  
Deliberative  
material



Out of scope  
of request







Out of scope  
of request

**From:** [Gavin Fang](#)  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Today's comms plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 8:25:06 AM

---

Ive asked [REDACTED] if my other Editors can join the SRT briefing with you. She said it should be fine.

Out of scope  
of request

---

**From:** Gaven Morris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 8:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Mark Maley <Maley.Mark@abc.net.au>; Craig  
McMurtrie <McMurtrie.Craig@abc.net.au>; Eric Napper <Napper.Eric@abc.net.au>; Erin Vincent  
<Vincent.Erin@abc.net.au>; Gavin Fang <Fang.Gavin@abc.net.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Jodi Fleming  
<Fleming.Jodi@abc.net.au>; John Lyons <Lyons.John@abc.net.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Rebecca Matthews <Matthews.Rebecca@abc.net.au>; Stuart Watt  
<Watt.Stuart@abc.net.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jodi Fleming <Fleming.Jodi@abc.net.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Today's comms plan

Out of scope  
of request

[REDACTED] it'd be good to get guidance from Stu and [REDACTED] on whether they want me to call in to a meeting there. And from John on bringing together the program EPs.

Out of scope  
of request

G

Out of scope  
of request

Out of scope  
of request

**From:** [Stuart Watt](#)  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#); [REDACTED] [Mark Maley](#); [Craig McMurtrie](#); [Eric Napper](#); [Erin Vincent](#); [Gavin Fang](#); [Jodi Fleming](#); [John Lyons](#); [REDACTED] [Rebecca Matthews](#); [Jodi Fleming](#)  
**Cc:** [Jodi Fleming](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Today's comms plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 8:23:53 AM

---

Out of scope of request

I'll talk to the Brisbane digital newsroom after the MD's address today. [REDACTED]'s in Sydney so he will dial in to that discussion.

Out of scope of request

What would be useful Gav would be for us to get you to dial in to a 12:30pm call tomorrow. That will give us time to let everyone know the briefing is happening, so people can dial in or come in if they are not on shift. And 12:30pm is prime time for us because it's shift changeover time, so we'll have maximum people on deck.

Does that work?

Cheers,  
Stuart

---

**From:** Gaven Morris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018 8:15:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Mark Maley](#); [Craig McMurtrie](#); [Eric Napper](#); [Erin Vincent](#); [Gavin Fang](#); [REDACTED] [Jodi Fleming](#); [John Lyons](#); [REDACTED] [Rebecca Matthews](#); [Stuart Watt](#); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Jodi Fleming](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Today's comms plan

Out of scope of request

[REDACTED], it'd be good to get guidance from Stu and [REDACTED] on whether they want me to call in to a meeting there. And from John on bringing together the program EPs.

Out of scope of request

G

Out of scope of request

Out of scope of  
request

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [John Lyons](#)  
Subject: Re: Budget  
Date: Wednesday, 9 May 2018 10:06:53 AM

---

47F Personal privacy

Btw I'd heard this was coming a while ago. [REDACTED]

47C Deliberative  
material

Sent from my iPhone

Out of scope  
of request

>> On 9 May 2018, at 9:32 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

47F Personal privacy

>>

>> Hi John I'll give this course a miss so I'll be around. [REDACTED]

47C Deliberative  
material

>> [REDACTED]

47F Personal privacy

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

Out of  
scope of  
request



**From:** [Jodi Fleming](#)  
**To:** [DG-News Executive](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Federal Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 9:19:24 AM

---

Out of scope of  
request

This is the staff email going out from Gaven in the next few minutes.

Colleagues,

On Monday evening a very brave young woman put her trust in the ABC, Four Corners and our fine journalist Louise Milligan to tell the harrowing story of how, without her consent, she had a traumatic first sexual experience in an alleyway behind a Sydney nightclub -- only to see the man involved cleared of any wrongdoing at all. It was presented to Australians on television and across our digital broadcast outlets.

As a direct response to that report, the NSW Attorney-General referred that State's sexual consent laws to the Law Reform Commission to examine if they meet community standards. This is what we mean by distinctive, impactful journalism. We want to do more of this journalism in the public's interest.

Last night, the Federal Government announced in its 2018-19 budget what amounts to a \$126 million further reduction to the ABC's funding over three years.

Of this, \$84 million is in the form of a freeze to the ABC's annual funding indexation. And \$43 million is a direct cut to ABC NEWS services ending the additional funding we've received since 2013 to provide enhanced news services.

Those services include regional newsgathering resources and suburban news bureaus in Geelong, Ipswich, Gosford and Parramatta, the ABC Investigations team, the Specialist Reporting Team, the RMIT ABC Fact Check unit and roles in every state and territory newsroom. Initially, the funding was \$20 million but already, \$6.5 million was cut two years ago. Now, the government has chosen to discontinue the rest of it from 30 June 2019.

You will already have seen Managing Director Michelle Guthrie's message last night about the federal budget announcements, and she will have more to say in her address to all ABC employees at noon.

In the meantime, I want to make a few points about the implications specifically for us in the News, Analysis & Investigations team.

The first thing to understand is that, while the \$43 million in additional funding is technically "tied" to specific News services, ending it does not mean those initiatives would automatically cease. Resourcing decisions will be assessed ABC-wide, taking into account all of our organisational resources and priorities and those across News.

Secondly, these new budget measures would not take effect until 1 July next year. The ABC is in fact still preparing our next triennial funding submission, covering the fiscal 2019-2022 period. While last night's announcement pre-empts this process, we'll continue to put our case for why it is in the interest of all Australians to have their national broadcaster properly funded to be able to deliver the sort of public interest journalism we saw on Monday night -- journalism with the power to change our nation for the better.

Australians trust the ABC more than they trust any other media -- and more than they trust politicians. Seventy per cent of Australians watch, read or listen to the ABC every week, and eighty per cent say the ABC is their trusted source of news and information, Australian stories told through drama, entertainment and conversations, safe and ad-free children's content, Australian music and culture and the discussion of ideas.

The best way to make our case is to continue our absolute commitment to Australians to provide the most valuable in-depth and investigative storytelling, accurate analysis and context, and reliable breaking news coverage, and making sure it is fully available to everyone across all our programs, platforms and channels.

I will be briefing the Editors, Executive Producers and affected national teams in more detail later today, and I will keep you all fully informed of developments in coming weeks.

Thanks everybody.

Gaven

ABC



## Gaven Morris

Director  
News, Analysis and Investigations

P	+61 2 83333095	E	<a href="mailto:morris.gaven@abc.net.au">morris.gaven@abc.net.au</a>
M	[REDACTED]	T	@gavmorris

Irrelevant material



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Federal Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 10:10:38 AM

---

47F Personal privacy

Well said.  
Cheers,

[REDACTED]

47F Personal privacy

---

**From:** Gaven Morris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 9:28 AM  
**Subject:** Federal Budget

Colleagues,

On Monday evening a very brave young woman put her trust in the ABC, Four Corners and our fine journalist Louise Milligan to tell the harrowing story of how, without her consent, she had a traumatic first sexual experience in an alleyway behind a Sydney nightclub -- only to see the man involved cleared of any wrongdoing at all. It was presented to Australians on television and across all our digital and broadcast services.

As a direct response to that report, the NSW Attorney-General referred that State's sexual consent laws to the Law Reform Commission to examine if they meet community standards. This is what we mean by distinctive, impactful journalism. We want to do more of this journalism in the public's interest.

Last night, the Federal Government announced in its 2018-19 budget what amounts to a \$126 million further reduction to the ABC's funding over three years.

Of this, \$84 million is in the form of a freeze to the ABC's annual funding indexation. And \$43 million is a direct cut to ABC NEWS services ending the additional funding we've received since 2013 to provide enhanced news services.

Those services include regional newsgathering resources and suburban news bureaus in Geelong, Ipswich, Gosford and Parramatta, the ABC Investigations team, the Specialist Reporting Team, the RMIT ABC Fact Check unit and roles in every state and territory newsroom. Initially, the funding was \$20 million but already, \$6.5 million was cut two years ago. Now, the government has chosen to discontinue the rest of it from 30 June 2019.

You will already have seen Managing Director Michelle Guthrie's message last night about the federal budget announcements, and she will have more to say in her address to all ABC employees at noon.

In the meantime, I want to make a few points about the implications specifically for us in the News, Analysis & Investigations team.

The first thing to understand is that, while the \$43 million in additional funding is technically "tied" to specific News services, ending it does not mean those initiatives would automatically cease. Resourcing decisions will be assessed ABC-wide, taking into account all of our organisational resources and priorities and those across News.

Secondly, these new budget measures would not take effect until 1 July next year. The ABC is in fact still preparing our next triennial funding submission, covering the fiscal 2019-2022 period. While last night's announcement pre-empts this process, we'll continue to put our case for why it is in the interest of all Australians to have their national broadcaster properly funded to be able to deliver the sort of public interest journalism we saw on Monday night – journalism with the power to change our nation for the better.

Australians trust the ABC more than they trust any other media – and more than they trust politicians. Seventy per cent of Australians watch, read or listen to the ABC every week, and eighty per cent say the ABC is their trusted source of news and information, Australian stories told through drama, entertainment and conversations, safe and ad-free children's content, Australian music and culture and the discussion of ideas.

The best way to make our case is to maintain our absolute commitment to Australians to provide the most valuable in-depth and investigative storytelling, accurate analysis and context, and reliable breaking news coverage, and making sure it is fully available to everyone across all our programs, platforms and channels.

I will be briefing the Editors, Executive Producers and potentially affected teams in more detail later today, and I will keep you all fully informed of developments in coming weeks.

Thanks everybody.

Gaven

ABC



## Gaven Morris

Director  
News, Analysis and Investigations

P	+61 2 83333095	E	<a href="mailto:morris.gaven@abc.net.au">morris.gaven@abc.net.au</a>
M	[REDACTED]	T	@gavmorris

Irrelevant material



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Federal Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 10:50:05 AM

47F Personal privacy

47F Personal privacy

Thanks

Out of scope  
of request

On 9 May 2018, at 10:40 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

47F Personal privacy

Gav,

While you mention the excellent example of the Four Corners story in terms of impact and changing policy, there is another example more directly related to the SRT and the Budget.

The campaign by grieving parents Jonny and Rachael Casella for better genetic testing has been identified as the inspiration or catalyst for the \$500 million record spend from the Medical Research Future Fund allocated to genetic research and testing – the government is calling it ‘Mackenzie’s Mission’. That was some good news announced in the Federal Budget last night.

---

**From:** Gaven Morris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 9:28 AM  
**Subject:** Federal Budget

Colleagues,

On Monday evening a very brave young woman put her trust in the ABC, Four Corners and our fine journalist Louise Milligan to tell the harrowing story of how, without her consent, she had a traumatic first sexual experience in an alleyway behind a Sydney nightclub – only to see the man involved cleared of any wrongdoing at all. It was presented to Australians on television and across all our digital and broadcast services.

As a direct response to that report, the NSW Attorney-General referred that State's sexual consent laws to the Law Reform Commission to examine if they meet community standards. This is what we mean by distinctive, impactful journalism. We want to do more of this journalism in the public's interest.

Last night, the Federal Government announced in its 2018-19 budget what amounts to a \$126 million further reduction to the ABC's funding over three years.

Of this, \$84 million is in the form of a freeze to the ABC's annual funding indexation. And \$43 million is a direct cut to ABC NEWS services ending the additional funding we've received since 2013 to provide enhanced news services.

Those services include regional newsgathering resources and suburban news bureaus in Geelong, Ipswich, Gosford and Parramatta, the ABC Investigations team, the Specialist Reporting Team, the RMIT ABC Fact Check unit and roles in every state and territory newsroom. Initially, the funding was \$20 million but already, \$6.5 million was cut two years ago. Now, the government has chosen to discontinue the rest of it from 30 June 2019.

You will already have seen Managing Director Michelle Guthrie's message last night about the federal budget announcements, and she will have more to say in her address to all ABC employees at noon.

In the meantime, I want to make a few points about the implications specifically for us in the News, Analysis & Investigations team.

The first thing to understand is that, while the \$43 million in additional funding is technically "tied" to specific News services, ending it does not mean those initiatives would automatically cease. Resourcing decisions will be assessed ABC-wide, taking into account all of our organisational resources and priorities and those across News.

Secondly, these new budget measures would not take effect until 1 July next year. The ABC is in fact still preparing our next triennial funding submission, covering the fiscal 2019-2022 period. While last night's announcement pre-empts this process, we'll continue to put our case for why it is in the interest of all Australians to have their national broadcaster properly funded to be able to deliver the sort of public interest journalism we saw on Monday night -- journalism with the power to change our nation for the better.

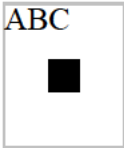
Australians trust the ABC more than they trust any other media -- and more than they trust politicians. Seventy per cent of Australians watch, read or listen to the ABC every week, and eighty per cent say the ABC is their trusted source of news and information, Australian stories told through drama, entertainment and conversations, safe and ad-free children's content, Australian music and culture and the discussion of ideas.

The best way to make our case is to maintain our absolute commitment to Australians to provide the most valuable in-depth and investigative storytelling, accurate analysis and context, and reliable breaking news coverage, and making sure it is fully available to everyone across all our programs, platforms and channels.

I will be briefing the Editors, Executive Producers and potentially affected teams in more detail later today, and I will keep you all fully informed of developments in coming weeks.

Thanks everybody.

Gaven



**Gaven Morris**  
Director  
News, Analysis and Investigations

P +61 2 83333095 E [morris.gaven@abc.net.au](mailto:morris.gaven@abc.net.au)  
M [REDACTED] T @gavmorris



Irrelevant material

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gaven Morris](#)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] bureau  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 May 2018 3:05:26 PM

---

47F Personal privacy

Hi Gaven,

As discussed, it would be great if you could chat to [REDACTED] from our [REDACTED] bureau to provide some reassurance on the potential budget cuts.

47F Personal privacy

47F Personal privacy

