

# Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of Australia’s national broadcasters

## Submission – Anonymous 17 (21 June 2018)

### Question 8: Considering the commercial activities of the national broadcasters (e.g. where they are selling or purchasing goods and services), is there evidence that they have taken undue advantage of their government ownership, to the detriment of competitive outcomes?

Absolutely not. They often fill a vacuum in this area created by non participation of the commercial sector.

### Question 9: What is the differential impact of regulation on commercial and national broadcasters, and is there evidence of consequent adverse impacts on competition and outcomes?

Definitely not. There is no evidence of any adverse impacts.

### Question 10: Is the reporting and accountability by the national broadcasters on their best endeavours to observe competitive neutrality adequate?

Yes.

Question 11: Are you aware of any specific instances where the ABC or SBS may have received any other competitive advantage, due to their public ownership, to the detriment of a private competitor?

No.

### Question 12: The SBS Charter requires it to take into account the activities of the ABC and community television on radio and television. In the context of the competitive neutrality principles how in your view, is the SBS complying with this requirement? From your perspective does it adequately cover the activities of the SBS?

### The SBS appears to be in full compliance of all of its obligations in this area.

### Question 13: From your perspective do the national broadcasters seek a balance between competing in the market and complementing the market? Is that balance the same for traditional broadcasting and for new digital platforms?

In answer to the first part of the question yes. The second part is extremely complex and too complicated to answer here.

### Question 14: Do you have comment on these guiding principles?

The ABC and the SBS are extremely important parts of our social fabric and hugely important in news gathering and dissemination in an impartial way. They conduct themselves extremely well and should not be hamstrung by ill conceived and irrational policy. They need to continue to be able to operate in a fearless and open way as they do now.