

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

## Submission – Anonymous 21 (22 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?

### The sole purpose of commercial broadcasters is to sell advertising, SBS has s small amount and the ABC none so there is no undue advantage from government ownership.

### 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?

### The ABC has a requirement for “balance” in news, current affairs and social commentary, which commercial broadcasters do not face. This requirement places a burden on the ABC not applied to commercial broadcasters .

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

Statutory responsibilities of the ABC to respond to complaints from the general public are more onerous than those imposed on commercial broadcasters. This I know from Media Watch, an example of a program that would not exist on a commercial broadcaster.

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?

### 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?

### 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?

### The National broadcasters are unique public institutions trying to serve the entire community, not just the high value consumers. It shouldn’t matter which platforms are utilised in serving all Australia

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