

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

## Submission – Anonymous 5 (29 April 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?

### 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?

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

### no, it has become most evident over recent years that both of the national broadcasters are pushing specific agendas and political ideas. Any attempt at neutrality is only done in token form to give little or no voice to opinions that differ from theirs.

### There is a far greater effort put into denigrating any authorities, leaders or experts that are coming from a differing political and social background.

### The ABC looks and sounds to be trying to become a social engineer to change the face of Australian society rather than reflect it.

### 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?

### Both broadcasters having the public purse to provide the majority of their funding are willing to produce and air programmes that would not be commercially viable if they were on a commercial network, as they would not provide viewer ratings that would warrant their production or broadcast.

### Therefore they do have a competitive advantage, in that their productions do not need to be appealing to the viewing public, only to the executives who give approval.

### 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?

### From a regional Queensland perspective it is near to impossible to answer this as we have little or no services from community television and community radio coverage is so poor, that it virtually doesn't exist beyond towns. therefore it is impossible to judge SBS's neutrality compared to something that is virtually invisible to us.

### 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?

### They no longer compliment the commercial market by producing uniquely australian content to reflect our society, they both follow the same stereotypical programming all the networks adhere to.

### We have lost the great unique character of our national broadcasters productions of the past and are now just receiving the bland product as everywhere else. It ignores the conservative, traditional and larrikin aspects of Australian society, to only cater towards a modern, hip, left wing inclined social set.

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

I would like to see changes to the ABC board and upper executives to bring it back into line with the Australian culture and for it to stop the pushing of political and social agendas.

I would also wish to see it stop social engineering society and return to providing genuine informative educational content for Australian youth that is balanced in any of its political dialogues and provides balanced and factual information.