

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

## Submission – Anonymous 6 (5 May 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?

### The main impact on competition is the activities of the international on-line platforms- google and Facebook - who have tax advantages, legal advantages in terms of defamation - as well as the advantages of their technology. It is vital that the ABC is able to compete with these channels of ‘news’ - particularly in its non-commercial activities of providing comprehensive, factual, and generally balanced news to the community.

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

The ABC’s news service is not a business as defined under competitive neutrality policy (they do not have a paywall or charge) & and therefore should be out of scope.

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?

### The activities of ABC Books & other arms that sell products would seem to have breached competitive neutrality when they advertise or otherwise promote their business on tv or radio.

### 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?

### Yes, the SBS would seem to be complying

### 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?

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