

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

## Submission – Judith James (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?

### I find this question is quite ludicrous. Of course not.

### 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?

### As many other countries have national broadcasters, again I find this question is just a camouflage being brought in to disguise the real reason the Liberal party is trying to destroy our national broadcaster.

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

### As far as an educated observer that I believe I am, yes they do at all times.

### 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 I certainly am not aware if ant such instances. Again a subterfuge question.

### 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 they do. Thank heavens they could step in when Optus failed to deliver on the football in Russia. They were not given the rights to broadcast and one can see in the National interest they should have been

### 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?

### Yes it is. I look at Iview on line and channel 9 and 7 apps and SBS for things I want to see that I have missed live.

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

### I am amazed that there is even an inquiry into looking at the possible privatisation of the ABC!The ABC is a fundamental part of our democracy. It is part of what is termed the third estate, in that it is able to investigate all manner of activities in our society. I can rely on the ABC to present the most detailed commentary on matters affecting us all. It presents the news not only from Australia and our Parliament but from across the Globe. It surprises me that the Govt. wants to "shoot itself in the foot" by even suggesting from within its ranks that cuts in funding should occur, let alone privatisation.What private company would endlessly each day such as occurs on News 24 repeat the doorstop interviews, the media conferences from the Prime minister and cabinet members? Or have Question time in the House of Representatives and the Senate available for viewers? All without intervening ads. Commercial stations wouldn't want to do that I feel sure. They just get the short grabs - often edited from what's presented by the ABC. And I am sure the free publicity the Government gets daily is not appreciated by the Liberal party who voted at their conference to take the Public Broadcaster out of Public hands. It is the job of reporters to get to the truth of all that politicians espouse. It is their job in the ABC also to present to the wider public informative and educational pieces such as health matters on Catalyst or scientific programs such as the recent star watch. Is the idea to privatise and thereby "dumb down" what the populace has to watch? Thereby allowing all manner of activities to proceed unchallenged? Four Corners investigative journalism has ensured many injustices have been exposed. Personally I enjoy these enlightening shows. In particular I also enjoy the quality drama the ABC presents. The latest drama, Mystery Road, is exemplary and showcases our most brilliant Australian actors. The children's Play school program is unmatched by any other on commercial television. I have watched them all while caring for my grandchildren. Q and A, Media Watch challenge what we read and hear - vital if we are to ensure a populace that is forever questioning what is done to us and for us by people with the POWER over us and who probably have not the understanding of the consequences of what they enact. Just observe the absurdity of elected senators switching allegiances and deserting the party or group to which the people of Australia elected them. One doubts their ability to make informed decisions in the peoples' best interests and not just their own. So it is vital to have a free and unfettered Public ABC able to report and examine without fear or favour to preserve our democracy. Great Britain, New Zealand, Canada and India to name a few countries all have independent broadcasters as my Doctor who settled here from India reminded me today when I told him what I had been writing in the waiting room. He, like me, said it was imperative to have an independent media broadcaster.