



**AUSTRALIAN SENATE**  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17  
Tuesday, 18 October 2016  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00 am until 11.00 pm.

The committee called calling the department and agencies of the Communications and Arts portfolio commencing with the department, the Australian Media and Communications Authority, Special Broadcasting Service, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australia Post, and NBN Co. The committee released the Australia Council and Screen Australia without questioning due to timing constraints and caring responsibilities. The committee has agreed to call NBN Co to appear at an additional hearing at a date yet to be determined.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Medical alarm monitoring on the NBN;
- Possible breach of caretaker conventions by NBN Chairman Dr Ziggy Switkowski's opinion piece published in *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* on 28 May 2016;
- Interactive gambling complaints;
- Emergency call services tender;
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals interdepartmental committee;
- gender balance on boards and council institutions within Arts portfolio;
- community broadcasting and spectrum licencing;
- rollout of accredited online safety programs to schools;
- Women's safety package;
- Advertising and marketing expenses of the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner;
- Children's eSafety Commission's work with the Carly Ryan Foundation;
- reports that Australia Post will be privatised;
- payments to Licensed Post Offices;
- executive remuneration reported in the annual report of Australia Post;
- losses incurred by the Australia Post's letter business ;
- ABC Four Corners episode 'The Forgotten Children' broadcasted on the evening of Monday, 17 October 2016;
- ABC's editorial complaint process;
- Possible inaccurate reporting by the ABC regarding a story published in February 2016
- ABC Board of Directors;
- ABC's international broadcasting presence;
- ABC Fact Check Unit complaints;
- ABC's commitment to rural and regional Australia;
- Effect of Netflix on iView and ABC online;
- the missing Tom Roberts coin that was donated to the prime ministerial collection;
- Indigenous Cultural and Arts Program funding;

- ANAO Performance Audit Report *Award of Funding under the Mobile Black Spot Programme*;
- NBN Co's decision to switch from Hybrid Fibre Co-Axial to Fibre-to-the-Distribution-Point technology;
- Independent Cost Benefit Analysis of the NBN; and
- NBN Co's handling of power outages.