

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 43

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written 07/06/2017

Topic: Branch Functions

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Please list functions for each of the following branches

- (a) USO taskforce
- (b) Consumer broadband services
- (c) Consumer safeguards
- (d) Broadband implementation

Answer:

- (a) The Universal Service Obligation (USO) Taskforce Branch has been established within the Department of Communications and the Arts. At a broad level, the function of the USO Taskforce will be to develop policy options relating to future arrangements for the telecommunications USO for the Government's consideration.
- (b) The Consumer Broadband Services Branch provides advice on key issues impacting the National Broadband Network (NBN) customer experience, and possible actions by industry and Government to address this.
- (c) The Consumer Safeguards Branch is responsible for management of the Telstra USO Performance Agreement and provides policy advice on consumer safeguards.
- (d) The Broadband Implementation Branch supports ministerial shareholder oversight of NBN Co and provides broadband policy advice to the Government through the Minister for Communications and Minister for Regional Communications.