

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates May 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 63**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Hansard Ref: Page 90, 24/05/2017**

**Topic: Buzzfeed comments**

**Senator Abetz, Eric asked:**

**Senator ABETZ:** Clearly it is an important issue for you, but keep in mind you are on the taxpayers' stipend with a public authority which is also a broadcaster. Can I ask whether you made comments to BuzzFeed on 20 March 2017 about this letter?

**Mr Ebeid:** To BuzzFeed?

**Senator ABETZ:** Yes.

**Mr Ebeid:** I do not think I have ever done an interview with BuzzFeed.

**Senator ABETZ:** You can take that on notice. For what it is worth, on 20 March 2017 BuzzFeed asserts to quote you, but I will not take it any further. You can take it on notice to check your records; time is of the essence.

**Mr Ebeid:** I am not aware of the comments.

**Senator ABETZ:** Understood, but take that on notice, please. ...

**Answer:**

On request from BuzzFeed, Mr Ebeid did provide a quote on 20 March 2017, being: "Our Australian business leaders recognise the rights of all of their employees to live and work free of discrimination and to be treated equally under the law. They also recognise the economic benefits of diversity and inclusion for their businesses. Therefore if businesses are doing well, the economy is doing well. The two are not mutually exclusive and CEOs have a right to express that to Government."