

SBS
OPENING STATEMENT
SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 2023

- Thank you Chair. I would like to comment briefly on some recent highlights in what has been a big year for SBS.
- I am proud of the way we have delivered our multiplatform and multilingual coverage in the lead up to the Referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and Constitutional recognition.
- Dedicated teams across SBS News, SBS Audio and NITV provided vital resources for our audiences, explaining the context of the debates while representing a range of positions in an editorially rigorous, nuanced, respectful and impartial manner.
- In the 2023 financial year more Australians than ever engaged with Indigenous content, with 24 million hours of First Nations content consumed across the network.
- SBS also continues to deliver for our evolving multilingual audiences, with new and relevant programming.
- We recently launched a new schedule for the SBS Audio network, developed through extensive community consultation and considering the latest Census data.
- The schedule includes the recent introduction of new services in four Indo-Pacific and one African language (Telugu, Bislama, Malay, Tetum and Oromo), as we deepen our offering to meet the needs of new migrants.
- this was covered in our 2023 Annual Report, which was tabled in Parliament just last week.
- The report highlights our strong results such as SBS's record metropolitan share of linear TV for the year, our highest ever commercial revenue, our successful digital transformation, which includes our steaming platform SBS On Demand, which is today the highest-rated steaming platform on the Apple App Store.
- Our digital strategy and the latest developments to our offering allow visitors to SBS On Demand and the SBS website to access content and information in their preferred language. SBS was named a finalist in the Australian Financial Review's Most Innovative Companies award. We were the only media organisation to make the list.
- SBS is Australia's contemporary broadcaster, reflecting the character of Australia in 2023. We are the national media organisation of today and of tomorrow.
- Thank you and we welcome your questions.