



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Tuesday, 14 February 2023
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:00am until 10:30pm.

The Committee called:

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Special Broadcasting Service Corporation
- Australian Communications and Media Authority
- Australian Postal Corporation
- Office of the E-Safety Commissioner
- NBN Co Limited
- Australia Council
- Screen Australia
- Creative Partnerships Australia

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

- Whether DITRDCA has engaged additional consultants since the election
- Number of gambling representative meetings with the Communications Minister and Department
- Development of the policy on online gambling advertising
- Joint responsibility of Arts and Communication Ministers for streaming content legislation
- Quantum and community expectations of NBN Co executive bonuses
- Departmental online safety initiatives
- Level of engagement with tech companies to prevent child sexual abuse
- Low orbit satellite working group progress
- Number of Australian families without internet
- Review of the News Media Bargaining Code
- Funding to local and public interest journalism through Journalist Fund
- Timeframes for anti-siphoning reform
- Whether the Prominence Framework for Connected Television Devices would extend to radio
- Departmental engagement with Meta under Media Bargaining Code on behalf of SBS
- Communications between the Communications Minister and the ABC regarding editorial standards
- Further AAP funding under the News Media Assistance Program
- Update on the ABC webpage outage on 13 February 2023
- ABC editorial framework for impartiality and Voice referendum coverage
- ABC policy on Australia day public holiday substitution and enterprise agreement
- Feedback on end of broadcast of ABC pre-school programming
- Extent to which data informs ABC programming decisions
- Welfare of ABC journalist who covered Alice Springs community meeting
- Information sought on editorial oversight of ABC's AM Alice Springs story
- ABC ombudsman review of accuracy and impartiality of initial ABC Alice Springs story

- Whether the ABC Alice Springs and Darwin teams currently have or have had an indigenous reporter
- Carbon emissions mitigation efforts by ABC
- Appropriateness of LGBTQI+ content for children
- Media Watch report on nurse describing sexual abuse in indigenous communities
- Employment and counselling of journalists regarding their social media use
- Works on ABC offices in Ultimo and Parramatta
- ABC reporting and engagement of consultants
- Disagreement between the ABC and ACMA over the 'Big Lie' 7.30 report
- Importance of impartial, independent and accurate coverage of Voice referendum by SBS
- Government's feasibility proposal in relation to SBS' Western Sydney relocation
- Cost of SBS representatives travelling overseas for the Tour de France and 2022 World Cup
- Captioning Quality Standard and investigations into complaints about captioning
- Monitoring misinformation and disinformation
- National Anti-Scams Centre and the potential creation of an SMS sender ID registry
- Investigation into Optus data breach
- Extent of payments to AusPost from banks for banking services in post offices
- Financial losses and sustainability of AusPost letter delivery service
- Competitiveness of Australia Post parcel business
- Explanation sought for service cost increases
- Extent and sustainability of Post Offices in regional areas
- Whether former Labor staffers have provided consulting services to Australia Post
- E-Safety Commissioner position on tech giants and spread of child abuse content
- Preparation of draft industry codes to facilitate removal of illegal content
- Commissioner lacking power to block/remove problematic website domains
- Responses to TikTok 'challenges' and their contribution to youth crime
- Status of additional funding for E-safety commissioner
- Engagement with schools on childhood online safety
- Starlink performance in rural and regional vis a vis NBN Sky Muster
- Information sought on extent of NBN fibre rollout
- Impact of Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters program on NBN users
- The proposed National Cultural Policy update to the Archives Act and National Archive records digitisation
- Clarification on six pieces of legislation required as a result of the National Cultural Policy
- Initiatives to prevent falsification of indigenous art
- Timelines for completion of consultation on quotas for streaming content for children
- Quantum of funds distributed through Live Music Australia grants
- Criteria for directing funds towards 'vulnerable genres' of Australian content
- Funding for REVIVE policy
- Status of first nations language programs within cultural policy
- Access for music festivals and venues to Music Australia grant funding
- Estimate of cost of rebranding Australia Council to Creative Australia
- Administration of new creative bodies within the Australia Council
- Level of funding for national collecting institutions
- Level of investment in regional arts fund
- Appointments to and resignations from arts body boards/executives pre- and post-election
- Summary of Australia Council current budget position and in previous years
- Grant funding towards conservative leaning artists
- Timeline of consultation on Cultural Policy
- Clarification of relationship of five pillars of cultural policy to regional arts
- Additional investment following Cultural Policy launch
- Direction of expenditure from funds within new Creative Australia bodies
- Funding for film and television under Cultural Policy
- Update on Temporary Interruption Fund post-COVID

- Continuity and effectiveness of incentives to attract offshore productions
- Value of video game industry in Australia
- Philanthropic funding to regional arts sector
- Transfer of staff from Creative Partnerships Australia to the Australia Council
- Demand for arts funding post-COVID

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday, 17 February in Committee Room 2S3, for examination of the Murray Darling Basin Plan matters cross portfolio.