



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNALISM

MEDIA RELEASE

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNALISM

The Senate has appointed a select committee to inquire into the future of public interest journalism. The committee has been charged with investigating:

- (a) the current state of public interest journalism in Australia and around the world, including the role of government in ensuring a viable, independent and diverse service;
- (b) the adequacy of current competition and consumer laws to deal with the market power and practices of search engines, social media aggregators and content aggregators, and their impact on the Australian media landscape;
- (c) the impact on public interest journalism of search engines and social media internet service providers circulating fake news, and an examination of counter measures directed at online advertisers, 'click-bait' generators and other parties who benefit from disinformation;
- (d) the future of public and community broadcasters in delivering public interest journalism, particularly in underserved markets like regional Australia, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
- (e) examination of 'fake news', propaganda, and public disinformation, including sources and motivation of fake news in Australia, overseas, and the international response; and
- (f) any related matters.

The Chair of the committee, Senator Sam Dastyari, said on Friday that the inquiry was well timed, highlighting that recent events demonstrate that there are big challenges for the future of Australian journalism, and that there is a role for government and policy makers to create a vibrant, free and independent industry. Senator Dastyari said the inquiry covers a broad spectrum of issues including corporate structures, taxation, competition policy and 'fake news'. Senator Dastyari said journalism plays a vital role in keeping politicians accountable, and recent events emphasised the need for better policy settings to ensure quality journalism was sustainable into the future.

Submissions are due by Thursday 15 June 2017, however, late submissions will also be considered. Submissions can be uploaded via the committee website below or emailed to the committee via the following email address: publicinterestjournalism.sen@aph.gov.au.

The committee website is under development and will be:

www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Future_of_Public_Interest_Journalism

Secretariat contact: Senate Select Committee on the Future of Public Interest Journalism

Phone: 02 6277 3439

Email: publicinterestjournalism.sen@aph.gov.au