

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 590**

**Program No. 1.3**

**Hansard Ref: Pages 22 (29/5/2014)**

**Topic: Mr Lewis**

**Senator Dastyari asked:**

Does Mr Lewis have any kind of specific experience in—the point that Mr Ebeid made before, and it is something that I am very close to, is this idea that a lot of what SBS does moves simply beyond just the broadcasting component; there is a community and cultural component as well. To be frank, I think those who have worked in this space have a deep understanding of it. Can you take on notice whether Mr Lewis has a background in it and whether or not—I know he has had some experience in broadcasting space but in that kind of community and cultural space as well?

**Senator Fifield:** You are quite right—he does have a strong media background. Mr Lewis is a former chief financial officer of Seven West Media, so he does have strong credentials there. I am sure he is not someone who has lived his life in a bubble or a vacuum. I am sure he has a rich and varied personal and professional life experience.

**Answer:**

The Efficiency Study was specifically limited to examining the operational and financial systems, structures and processes applied to delivering ABC and SBS programs, products and services. It did not review the quality of the national broadcasters' programs, products and services or their Charters.

Mr Lewis was engaged due to his knowledge and experience in financial and operational issues in the broadcasting industry.