

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 172

The Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Written, 06/06/2017

Topic: Local content

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

1. Are there ways to apply minimum local content quotas for SVOD services like Stan and Netflix?
2. Have other jurisdictions around the world applied local content quotas for SVOD services?
3. Were those examples from elsewhere legislated?
4. What has the result been?
5. Have discussions been had with SVOD services when it comes to their level of local content in Australia?
6. Can SVOD services be directed or forced to commission local content under current legislation?

Answer:

On 6 May 2017 the Australian Government announced that it is undertaking a comprehensive review of Australian and children's screen content (the Review). The Review is being conducted jointly by the Department of Communications and the Arts, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and Screen Australia. The objective of the review is to provide policy options to government on the most effective support mechanisms for the Australian screen production sector. Specifically, mechanisms to support Australian drama, documentary and children's content and the Australian Screen Production Incentive will be reviewed.

It is expected that the review output/s will canvass substantive elements of the matters above and therefore it would be inappropriate for the ACMA to respond to those questions at this time.