Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 8

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Spoken, 20/10/2015

Topic: Updated department outcomes

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:
Senator URQUHART: I asked this yesterday in environment. Are you able to provide us with updated outcomes and where each of the outcomes are linked to?
Ms O'Loughlin: We did provide an updated outcome. But what might not have been obvious from that is that we had moved the digital productivity element of that outcome. That has come out of the outcome.
Senator URQUHART: If you can give us that sort of drilled down information that would be useful.
Ms O'Loughlin: Yes.

Answer:

The Department will deliver its Outcome 1 through a single Programme 1.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services.

The Department's strategy for delivering its outcome is to provide strategic advice on and administer projects and initiatives to:

- Expand digital infrastructure—advising Government on the necessary market settings to deliver competitive and efficient digital infrastructure to drive growth in the broader economy.
- Promote efficient communications markets—advising Government on the necessary market settings to promote competition, while ensuring access to basic services, making available socially valuable content, and safeguarding consumers from inappropriate content and unfair dealing.
- Ensure copyright law and regulation provide a framework that supports and promotes creativity, commercial activity and access to knowledge and cultural works, in a way that is efficient and flexible, particularly in relation to the digital environment.
- Modernise the National Classification Scheme to meet evolving industry needs including trialling of online classification tools.

This is supported through research to identify, assess and explain developments in digital technologies and communications networks and services.

The Department will deliver its Outcome 2 through a single Programme 2.1: Arts and Cultural Development.

The Department supports the Australian Government to achieve its arts and culture policy objectives by promoting artistic excellence, artistic integrity and respect for artistic freedom; supporting the self-confidence of Australia's cultural sector by telling Australian stories and international engagement; protecting and supporting Australia's cultural heritage; and encouraging public access to arts and culture.

The Department works with 12 cultural organisations within the arts portfolio. The arts portfolio includes a diverse range of programmes and organisations across the visual and performing arts, literature, Indigenous arts and languages, screen and creative industries, and collections including libraries, galleries and museums.