

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 38

Special Broadcasting Service

Hansard Ref: Page 22, 20/10/2015

Topic: Programming Proposals

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: These proposals, are they made to the relevant minister or the Prime Minister? Or to the department?

Mr Ebeid: They went to several different avenues. Obviously to our own minister, but also to the various ministers responsible for some of these programs and initiatives across the government. Can I say, for a lot of these programs, timing is everything. We may have been ahead of ourselves in terms of timing. Some of these initiatives might now have more resonance and be more accepted by some of the agencies, given what has happened in the last 12 months, than maybe they would have been 18 months ago. I look forward to exploring all of those in some of the meetings we have got coming up in the near future.

Senator DASTYARI: Obviously the government chose not to adopt them, but you were consulted at the time, there were discussions and you got polite letters back.

Mr Ebeid: Yes.

Senator DASTYARI: I am not going to ask you about whether they fit under FOI or not, because that it is not a question for you, but can you take on notice releasing those letters and proposals?

Mr Ebeid: Sure. I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The nature and context of SBS's interactions with Government on deradicalisation and social cohesion is that SBS regularly meets with Parliamentarians and Government departments to work on proposals to further SBS's Charter and ministerial portfolio interests.

SBS has clarified its position in relation to its role and specific activities in the deradicalisation space by writing to the Chair of the Environment and Communication Legislation Committee.

Attached is the letter of 5 November 2015 to Senator Linda Reynolds CSC Chair of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee.

Given there have been no formal proposals, there are as such, no proposals to release.