

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK**

Responses to Questions on Notice  
Inquiry into the National Broadband Network

Cliftons, Sydney

**Standards Australia - Responses**

QoN No.	Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	STANDARDS AUSTRALIA RESPONSE
1	NBN50-51	Lundy	<p><b>Senator LUNDY</b>—In relation to the ICT sector, in terms of Standards Australia’s workload what portion would represent standards relating to ICT, either telco or software or hardware standards?</p> <p><b>Mrs Byatt</b>—It is difficult to put a figure on that. In our library of standards there are in excess of 7,000 standards. I would have to come back to the committee with an indication of what proportion of that sits in telco. It certainly takes up quite a proportion of my role as relationship manager. I am assigned several sectors and one sector is ICT.</p>	<p>(For the purposes of this answer, the term ‘standards’ relates not only to standards themselves (i.e. AS documents – Australian Standards) but also to what are termed ‘lower consensus’ documents, such as Codes, Technical Specifications, Handbooks etc.)</p> <p>IT features in a high number of national and international standards, which can make the task of counting in terms of references within such documents very difficult. Often IT matters are not contained within the defined scope of a particular standard, but that standard will contain references to IT in some manner, as it is pertinent to the topic area. For instance, standards on avionics, on engineering and construction may contain references to IT systems, yet may not explicitly refer to IT within their published scope.</p> <p>Having said that and noting the areas that may be of interest to the government in general relating to IT and telco, please see below in the Appendix, approximate splits, by AS/ Joint (AS/NZS), ISO and IEC documents (published). This gives an indication of the numbers involved. The approximate proportion of telco and ICT related Australian/Joint Australian New Zealand standards then is around 12%; however, Australia often also contributes to ISO and IEC content. (Please note this only includes published documents currently available; it does not include documents that are still in draft form.)</p>

QoN No.	Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	STANDARDS AUSTRALIA RESPONSE
2	NBN51	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am interested in your issue around consensus based standards. My colleagues here have been involved in telco for quite some time and I am intrigued about the idea of actually getting industry to agree on some standards, particularly in the telco sector. Is that something that you have looked at closely related to how it would work with telco, or is it more just an overarching principle type idea?</p> <p><b>Mrs Byatt</b>—It is an overarching principle. There is a definition of consensus which is adhered to in ISO as well. It does not mean 100 per cent consensus. Obviously that is very difficult to obtain, especially in some domains more than others. It does work on an algorithmic basis so we can get the details for you with regards to what those percentages are, but largely there would <b>not</b> be a sustained objection by a significant majority in order for consensus to be achieved.</p>	<p><b>(Word in red added into Hansard script as a correction)</b></p> <p><b>Consensus</b> is usually taken to mean:</p> <p><i>General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.</i></p> <p><i>ISO/IEC Guide 2 Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary</i></p> <p>Consensus does not require 100% agreement. Consensus is achieved when the majority of interests involved with the subject of the Standard have collectively accepted the content of the document and have voted affirmatively.</p> <p>Consensus has been achieved if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum 67% of those eligible to vote have voted affirmatively; and</li> <li>• A minimum 80% of votes received are affirmative; and</li> <li>• No major interest involved with the subject of the Standard has collectively maintained a negative vote.</li> </ul>

**Appendix - Standards Australia's Response to Question 2**  
**Approximate numbers of standards available in the below topic areas relating to IT and Telco**

<b>AREA (Plus International Classification for Standards Code)</b>	<b>AS/NZS</b>	<b>ISO</b>	<b>IEC</b>
<b>IT applications in Healthcare technology: 35.240.80</b>	72	77	0
<b>Telecommunications: 33.020 - Telecommunications in general</b>	13	1	10
33.030 - Telecommunications services Applications	1	0	0
33.040 - Telecommunications Systems	108	119	20
33.070 - Mobile services	20	0	0
33.080 - ISDN	11	7	1
33.100 - EMC	131	25	313
33.180 - Fibre Optics	7	11	362
<b>IT: 35.020 - Information Technology, general</b>	24	38	20
35.080 - Software	91	140	1
35.180 - IT Terminal and other peripheral equipment	13	65	4
35.110 - Networking	33	65	21
35.240 - IT applications	357	767	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>1315</b>	<b>840</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3036</b>		