

# Appointment to the Boards of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation ('ABC') and Special Broadcasting Service ('SBS')

## Statement from the Independent Nomination Panel ('Panel')

July 2016

In preparing for the appointments, meetings have been held with the Chair/Acting Chair and Managing Directors of each of ABC and SBS.

From these discussions, it is evident to the Panel that each organisation shares similar requirements amongst its new non-executive directors ('Directors'). Accordingly, the Panel wishes to amplify some of the selection criteria set out in the attached position descriptions.

The ABC Charter requires the ABC, among other things, "to provide ... broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of, the Australian community". Similarly, the SBS Charter provides that the "principal function of SBS is to provide multilingual and multicultural radio, television and digital media services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians and, in doing so, reflect Australia's multicultural society".

Accordingly, the Panel is interested in receiving and assessing applications from candidates who can demonstrate an understanding of the cultural diversity of Australia, including an appreciation of the needs of both regional and urban communities.

In addition, the Chair/Acting Chair and Managing Director of each organisation highlighted in their discussions with members of the Panel the complexity of strategic issues impacting the Australian media landscape. Accordingly, consistent with the relevant position descriptions, the Panel is interested in receiving and assessing applications from candidates who "demonstrate substantial experience or knowledge in ... the media industry, including broadcasting, digital media and/or digital technologies" (selection criterion 1a in each position description). This may include individuals with a strong professional background in content across one or more platforms (e.g. television, radio or digital) or genres (e.g. news & current affairs, fiction or factual). In particular, the Panel is interested in receiving and assessing applications from candidates who have been involved in a strategic transformation from traditional content production and distribution to digital.