

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 10:47 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: eSafety complaint avenues and support resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

FYI

OFFICIAL

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, 21 May 2023 9:49 PM
To: 'Mark Tapley'
Subject: eSafety complaint avenues and support resources [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Mark

As discussed earlier, the Minister asked that you be supplied with information about relevant eSafety complaint avenues and support resources, which is set out below.

Reporting Adult cyber-abuse

The *Online Safety Act 2021* establishes a cyber-abuse removal scheme for Australian adults which provides a pathway for those experiencing the most seriously harmful online abuse to have this material removed from the internet. The eSafety Commissioner can consider hateful or dehumanising commentary and symbolism where it meets the Act's definition of 'adult cyber abuse'. Services that fail to remove abusive content following an eSafety removal notice can be met with significant financial penalty.

eSafety also provides advice and information about how people can manage, report and respond to the abuse and protect themselves online. More information about the Adult cyber-abuse scheme, including how to report abusive material, can be found at www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/adult-cyber-abuse. See also:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/adult-cyber-abuse/how-to-report>. Detailed regulatory guidance on the Adult cyber-abuse scheme is available at: [Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme Regulatory Guidance.pdf \(esafety.gov.au\)](https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/adult-cyber-abuse/how-to-report).

eSafety may also refer people to resources and counselling services to help them deal with the impacts of abuse. For example: [13YARN - Call 13 92 76 | 24 /7 Crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders](https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/adult-cyber-abuse/how-to-report).

Hate speech online

eSafety can investigate online hate speech and racist or discriminatory content only if it meets the threshold for one of its regulatory schemes. For example, when investigating adult cyber-abuse, eSafety will consider whether the person has been targeted because of their racial or cultural background. Adult cyber-abuse can involve hate speech including misogyny, racism, homophobia, transphobia, antisemitism and islamophobia, but for this abuse to meet the definition in the Adult cyber-abuse scheme, it must target an individual rather than a group of people and it must be menacing, harassing or offensive and intended to cause serious harm. For example, eSafety cannot act on behalf of an organisation that is experiencing racist or misogynist abuse online, as this abuse is directed at a group rather than a specific person. See: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report/options-if-esafety-cant-investigate>.

While the *Online Safety Act 2021* includes some mechanisms to address hate speech that meets the legal definition of Adult cyber-abuse, it does not confer on the eSafety Commissioner powers in relation to online hate speech or vilification more generally, particularly that which targets groups and communities. As such, and as stated in the [Government's response](#) to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Social Media and Online Safety report, the Government is considering what more can be done to address hate speech targeting groups of people online.

First Nations resources

eSafety provides online safety resources for First Nations people. This includes information about online hate speech and abuse as well as how to deal with racism online.

See: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/first-nations/online-hate-and-abuse>.

Resources for journalists

eSafety provides a range of resources for individuals and organisations to deal with online abuse, including resources developed for those working in the media sector, which are available at www.esafety.gov.au/educators/corporate-and-community-education/supporting-journalists-engage-safely-online. Indeed, eSafety has collaborated with the Social Media Wellbeing Advisor from the ABC to develop best practice tips for both media organisations and journalists to manage and mitigate the risk of social media abuse.

eSafety also offers 'social media self-defence' training for organisations, which is delivered and tailored for the particular workplace and industry. This training was developed as part of eSafety's 'Women in The Spotlight' program, and it may be tailored for application beyond women's experiences. See: [Social media self-defence | eSafety Commissioner](#). You may consider contacting eSafety at WITS@esafety.gov.au to discuss what training and support eSafety can provide, particularly for staff who are subjected to abuse and harassment on social media.

Mark, I trust you will find this useful. If you have any questions or require any contact details at eSafety, please don't hesitate to be in contact.

Regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser • Minister for Communications

Office of the Hon Michelle Rowland MP • Member for Greenway

s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au • +61 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Commonwealth Parliament Offices, Level 21, 1 Bligh Street Sydney NSW 2000

Suite M1.41, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: noreply@pws.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 11:56 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: QB23-000855 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

has assigned the below PDR to you in the department-wide tenant.

Record Details	
PDR Subject	BROADCAST – ABC and Stan Grant
Processing Instructions	For review please
Milestones	Due for Clearance : 22/05/2023 11:00:00 AM Due to Parliamentary : 22/05/2023 11:00:00 AM
Status	MO Editing

This record can be actioned via the following link: [QB23-000855](#).

Did you know the [PDMS+ CONNECT page](#) has great resources available to guide you through your process? Why not take a look!

For help using PDMS+, head to the for Quick Reference Guides or contact the PDMS+ Team at s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](#)

Contact MPS –6274 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Contacts	
General enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Question Time + QTB enquires	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
PQoN enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Senate Estimates enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Ministerial Submission + Brief enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Tabling enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
PDMS enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Committee Inquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

Kind regards

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](#)

P + 61 2 6274 s22(1)(a)(ii)
 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
 CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS



I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.Communications.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 3:03 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Rafizadeh, Shervin
Subject: FW: eSafety Commissioner Outreach to ABC Managing Director David Anderson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: ABC Melbourne interview Virginia Trioli.docx

OFFICIAL

FYI s22(1)(a)(ii) – Julie has also reached out to David Anderson outlining eSafety's resources and powers. She was also interviewed on the issue by Virginia Trioli this morning, transcript attached.

OFFICIAL

From: Julie Inman Grant <Julie.InmanGrant@eSafety.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 2:55 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.Communications.gov.au>; Rafizadeh, Shervin <Shervin.Rafizadeh@MO.communications.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @esafety.gov.au
Subject: FW: eSafety Commissioner Outreach to ABC Managing Director David Anderson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal Privilege**

Shervin s22(1)(a)(ii) – I understand you spoke to Toby about the very sad and unfortunate resignation of Stan Grant due to persistent online racism and hate. As you may know, I did a media interview with Virginia Trioli this morning which was a last minute request s47C

You'll see that I reiterated Minister Rowland's public remarks and committed to writing to David Anderson today, which I did around lunchtime. For your information, here is the correspondence I sent to Mr. Anderson and a copy of the radio interview transcript.

Let me know if you have further questions.

Julie

From: Julie Inman Grant
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 12:03 PM
To: David N Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @abc.net.au>; eSafety Parliamentary s22(1)(a)(ii) @esafety.gov.au>; Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@esafety.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @eSafety.gov.au>; Toby Dagg <Toby.Dagg@esafety.gov.au>
Subject: eSafety Commissioner Outreach to ABC Managing Director David Anderson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal Privilege**

Hello David:

I have been following the events of this past week and Stan Grant's resignation from Q&A Friday and over the weekend. I also saw that you issued a heartfelt apology and have committed to conducting an internal investigation at the ABC. If we can be of help in anyway, please do let us know.

To that end, I thought this might be an opportune time to remind you of the resources we have available at eSafety around targeted online abuse as well as provide you with more information about our adult cyber abuse scheme which journalists, or those designated to support them, can avail themselves to.

You may recall that last May, eSafety collaborated with the ABC to release [best-practice resources](#) designed to help media organisations better protect their journalists from increasing levels of online abuse experienced in the course of doing their jobs. We have also collaborated with Safe Work Australia to develop [guidance about online abuse](#) for employers and workers outlining practical steps to help prevent and deal with incidents of online abuse, which has been designated as a form of psycho-social harm. We have had really positive engagements with staff at the ABC who are supporting your journalists, including participation in your cross-security and safety sessions and just last month met with the ABC's Indigenous, Diversity and Inclusion section to make them aware of the resources and reporting paths available to the ABC as we have started to see an uptick of reports from First Nations people from the start of this year.

I wanted to also reinforce that through our adult cyber abuse scheme, eSafety investigations can take complaints from Australian adults targeted by material intended to cause them serious harm at esafety.gov.au/report. We can also take reports from a person who is authorised to report the abuse on an individual's behalf. In order for eSafety to investigate and direct an online or electronic service or platform to remove harmful content, the adult cyber abuse must meet a legal 'threshold'. This means it must be serious enough to be covered by the definition in the Online Safety Act. Under the Act, 'adult cyber abuse' is reserved for the most severely abusive material that has likely been posted with the intention to cause a person serious harm. The very high threshold for adult cyber abuse reports helps to make sure that free speech and legitimate expressions of opinion are protected. In cases where online abuse doesn't meet the legislated threshold but is likely to violate a platform's own policies, eSafety can approach a platform informally to remove content when that content breaches its terms of service.

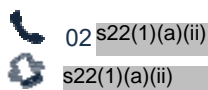
You can find more information about the adult cyber abuse scheme [here](#).

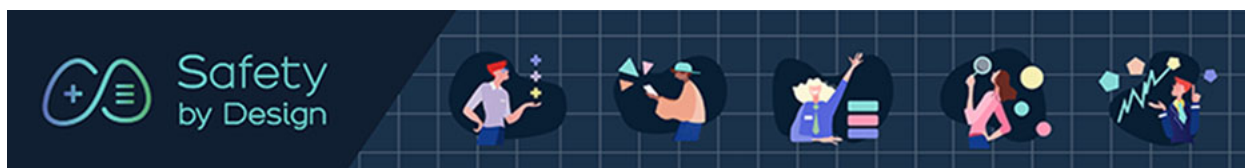
Again, please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you and your team. I will no doubt again see you at Estimates this week, which promises to keep us all on our toes!

All the best,

Julie

Julie Inman Grant
Commissioner



 esafety.gov.au

eSafety acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Julie Inman Grant, good morning.

Good morning to you.

Has the ABC failed in its duty to protect and care for its own?

Well, listen, I think I just want to say racism and abuse online is never acceptable and the social media platforms should also be doing much more to tackle this issue. But we know for a journalist, as for any Australian, serious online abuse should just not be part of the job. It can take a significant personal and professional toll. And when it succeeds in silencing voices, it also threatens the balanced reporting of news and issues which, of course, in turn poses a risk to the well-informed society and to a healthy democracy. So yes, we've worked with the ABC on... a range of materials for journalists because we know that the risk factors for online abuse are much higher for journalists who come from diverse backgrounds. And, of course, this risk is compacted by intersectionality. When the journalist, for instance, has more than one factor at play, is a female, may identify as lgbtqi+, is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander... Happy to talk about the resources we have available, but also that abuse can be reported to E-Safety when it isn't taken down by the platform.

So, you say you've worked with the ABC on this. Have you provided the ABC with tools to deal with exactly the situation that Stan Grant is describing?

Right. Well, in May of last year, E-Safety collaborated with the ABC to release what we call best-practise resources, designed to help media resources to better protect their journalists from increasing levels of online abuse. I have spoken to ABC management in the past and they are concerned. But, of course, we need to put these programmes and these resources into action.

And do you believe they've been put into action here? I mean. Well, you're the Esafety commissioner. You've worked with the ABC. You say you've given us these tools. From what you're hearing from Stan Grant, does it sound like those tools have been deployed?

Well, I feel terrible for what Stan Grant has experienced. And I'm sure that it's been a cumulative accumulation of daily racism experienced, the additional media coverage and of course, the compounded impact of social media abuse.

Now, we've worked with Safe Work Australia and we've developed guidance for employers about the duty of care that they have in protecting their employees from online abuse. Online harassment has been designated a form of psycho-social hazard. So yes, all employers do have a responsibility, particularly if they're encouraging their employees to go online to make sure that they are protected.

Well, there's sort of a fine line that's being walked. And I won't just keep speaking about this organisation. I think it works for a lot of places and also, as I mentioned, for individuals who just want to who are listening at home and who just want to engage with social media, you know, it's all applicable. We're not required to be on social media, but yet our organisation is. Groups like NITV, the National Indigenous Television Service, has decided to go off Twitter just because of the racial abuse that its people are having to deal with. Do you think the ABC should do the same?

I can't speak for the editorial or social media policies of the ABC. I can say having worked at Twitter and as ESafety Commissioner, over the past six months Twitter has become a much less hospitable place. And that's not surprising because when Elon Musk took over he allowed the worst of the worst online abusers back onto the platform. Having worked there, it takes a particularly vile person that repeatedly violates the terms of service of Twitter to be permanently suspended. He let all of those people back on while he eviscerated the trust and safety team and got rid of local public policy people who engage with regulators and law enforcement at the coalface. So, we've really created a perfect storm for this kind of cesspool to really further promulgate this terrible, terrible content. We are engaging with Twitter. And as you know, our minister, Minister Michelle Rowland, has said that racism is unacceptable and she is also backing us to make sure that companies, like Twitter, are enforcing their terms of service.

Well, but given all that, then given the fact that, you know what's happened at Twitter and you've worked at Twitter and you've created tools for businesses and organisations like the ABC to deal with it, does it seem like the ABC has been doing the right thing and has protected its own and has even used those tools that have been provided for it by the E-Safety Commission in order to look after its own?

Well, I cannot speak to what they have and have not done, but I will personally reach out to the leadership today and not only recommend that these be put into use, but to make sure that they are very aware and that the journalists are aware that they can report serious online abuse to esafety.gov.au, particularly when the platform, you know, refuses to respond. We've already seen.

I'll just jump in. I'll just jump in there, Julie. That's almost in every single case, almost in every single case when that I'm aware of and that I've made myself, where I've made and I've rarely done it to Twitter. Nothing happens. Nothing changes. So, are you prepared to be inundated with every single issue that you see now on Twitter? And can you actually do anything meaningfully about that?

We have a serious adult cyber abuse scheme, which has been in place since January of last year. The way our powers are enlivened is after a person reports to the platform, if it doesn't come down, they can report to us. There is a high threshold. We have to prove that there is serious intent to cause harm and that it's menacing, harassing and offensive in all cases to an ordinary, regular person.

We have seen an uptick over the past three months from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from 5.0% to 5.6%, which may not seem like a lot, but it is. So, we're watching this closely. We encourage people to report, even if we're not able to take formal action. We have had success in going informally to the platforms to have them remove content that we believe violates their terms of service. So I do encourage people to go to esafety.gov.au. We'll do whatever we can to support Australians who are experiencing online abuse.

Julie Inman Grant, good to talk to you this morning. Thank you for taking our call Thank you for having me.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: noreply@pws.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 9:55 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: QB23-000855 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

has assigned the below PDR to you in the department-wide tenant.

Record Details	
PDR Subject	BROADCAST – ABC and Stan Grant
Processing Instructions	For your review please
Milestones	Due for Clearance : 23/05/2023 10:00:00 AM Due to Parliamentary : 23/05/2023 10:00:00 AM
Status	MO Editing

This record can be actioned via the following link: [QB23-000855](#).

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Contact MPS –6274 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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PDMS enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Committee Inquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

Kind regards

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](#)

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 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
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I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 12:26 PM
To: DLO Rowland; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: QB23-000855.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: QB23-000855.docx

OFFICIAL

Please upload this version to PDMS on ABC Stan Grant - thanks

OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments: QB23-000855.docx

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 12:33 PM

To: DLO Rowland s22(1)(a)(ii) [@MO.communications.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@MO.communications.gov.au)>

Subject: Stan Grant final [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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BROADCAST – ABC AND STAN GRANT

QUESTION: How is the ABC responding to the recent racism directed toward Stan Grant?

Racism is completely unacceptable. I take this matter very seriously – I spoke with the ABC Managing Director earlier this week and had previously asked my office to contact ABC management with information about complaint avenues and support resources available through the eSafety Commissioner.

Journalism is and should be subject to rigorous and respectful debate. There are however, lines that should not be crossed.

All media workers, including ABC journalists, deserve to feel welcomed, included, supported and safe in the workplace.

The ABC is government-funded but has operational and editorial independence so that it may be free of political and commercial interference. Like any organisation in Australia the Government expects the ABC to meet their obligations with respect to their employees, and to provide a workplace that is safe, welcomes all staff, and offers appropriate support to its staff who are

experiencing racism, abuse and bullying so that they can continue to carry out their important work.

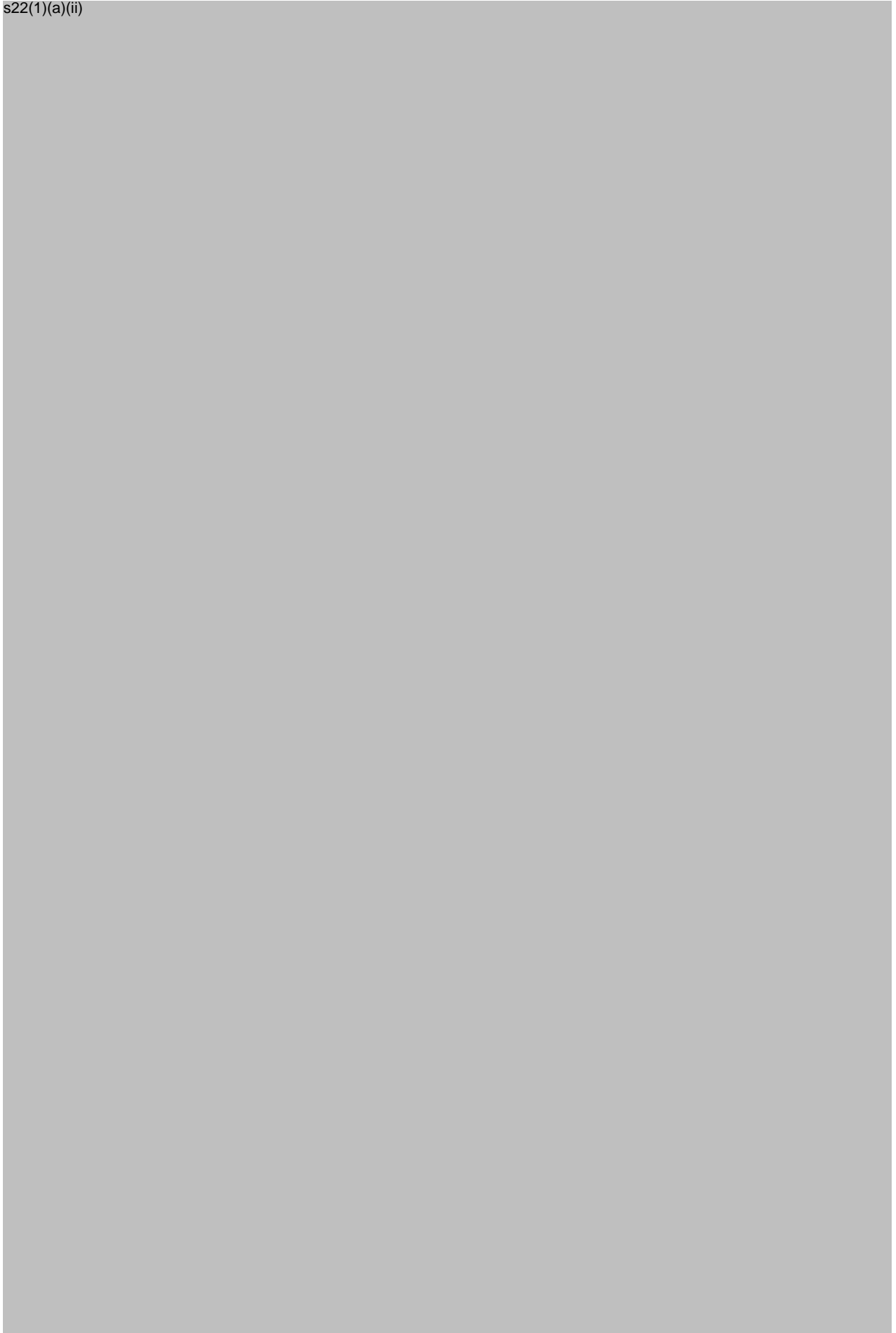
As members will be aware, ABC has come out publicly to offer its full support for Stan Grant and has condemned the 'abhorrent and unacceptable' abuse that has been directed to him, and many ABC staff have taken to the streets in solidarity with their respected colleague.

ABC management have apologised for not making Stan Grant feel supported in the face of racism. Last year, an ABC internal review found that Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse were experiencing racism and cultural insensitivity at work.


I understand that the ABC is undertaking a review of how it can provide greater support to staff experiencing racism, based on a recommendation by the Bonner Committee. The Bonner Committee is the ABC's primary advisory body on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, content and communities.

QB23-000855

s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)




IF ASKED: To what extent did criticism of the ABC coronation coverage contribute to the racism directed to Stan Grant?

I understand in the weeks since the coronation, several media outlets have criticised the ABC's coverage of the coronation of King Charles III, which included Stan Grant as a panel member.

Any concerns about this coverage should be raised directly with the broadcaster in the first instance, and can be escalated where appropriate.


The Australian Communications and Media Authority has discretion to accept complaints about the ABC where xxx.

s22(1)(a)(ii)




QB23-000855

s22(1)(a)(ii)



Released under the FOI Act by the Minister for Communications


s22(1)(a)(ii)



Background


- The ABC coverage of King Charles III's coronation on 6 May 2023 included a panel show before the main coverage which has been criticised as 'extremely biased' and 'disrespectful'. Stan Grant appeared on this panel and spoke about the impact British rule has on Indigenous Australians.
- On Friday 19 May, Mr Grant authored an ABC column where he announced he was stepping down as the host of Q+A and as an ABC columnist in light of the racism he has experienced while working at the ABC, especially in the weeks following the coronation.
 - Media reports outline that this includes threats to Mr Grant's safety. The ABC have stated they will continue to refer any threats to police.
- ABC News Director Justin Stevens issued a statement on 19 May, offering his support of Mr Grant and clarifying that Mr Grant was only a participant on the panel and not involved in organising the panel.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



QB23-000855

s22(1)(a)(ii)



Contact: s22(1)(a)(ii) (Media Industry and Sustainability Branch) 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 1:32 PM
To: Rafizadeh, Shervin; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Statement on Stan Grant final.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Statement on Stan Grant final.docx

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 29 May 2023 10:21 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: XX052023 - SPEECH - Multicultural Community Broadcasters - The Hon Michelle Rowland MP sk (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 27052023 - SPEECH - National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council 2023 Conference - The Hon Michelle Rowland MP - Final.docx; 27052023 - SPEECH - National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council 2023 Conference - The Hon Michelle Rowland MP - Final tracked.docx

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Hi there

NEMBC speech - Minister made some personal touch edits and removed a bit of repetition near the end.
 Tracked and clean copies attached.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser • Minister for Communications
 Office of the Hon Michelle Rowland MP • Member for Greenway
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 Suite M1.41, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 25 May 2023 12:41 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: XX052023 - SPEECH - Multicultural Community Broadcasters - The Hon Michelle Rowland MP sk (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hey team,

s22(1)(a)(ii) approved speech here for the run-through with the Minister this afternoon.

Please dial s22(1)(a)(ii) in for the meeting ☺

Thanks!

s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Minister for Communications

– SPEECH COVERSHEET –

9am, 27 May 2023

Address at the opening of the
National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters'
Council (NEMBC) Conference 2023

Good morning.

Acknowledgement of country

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet.

I pay respect to all First Nations Elders, past and present, and to First Nations people here with us today.

This year is the year of the Voice – and I am so proud to be a member of a government committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart - in *full*.

As my esteemed colleague, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Andrew Giles said about our nation on Harmony Day this year, “We’ve grown and we're increasingly not afraid of having difficult conversations about our past, present and future, of questioning our ways and acknowledging our mistakes, and finding new ways to live better, in harmony.”

In decades to come, let us look back at the historical significance of 2023 - a year we moved a step further down the long road towards reconciliation by saying “yes” to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Introduction

Indeed, it gives me great pleasure to be here at the opening of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters’ Council Conference 2023, to support the

very people giving a *broadcast* voice to multicultural Australia. It is an honour to be among the cream of the community broadcasting sector.

While this is my first opportunity to join you as Minister, if memory serves me correctly, this is my second address to your conference. My first was as Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in Darwin – and I do remember a great dinner, lots of laughs and dancing. Everyone was hospitable and it is a pleasure to return.

This forum really combines my policy passions: Communications and multiculturalism. I'm sorry I can't stay for the day, however I have a commitment in Blacktown which is, incidentally, to celebrate multiculturalism, so I trust you'll excuse me.

Australia is, and proudly so, one of the most diverse and successful multicultural societies in the world.

In 2023, more than 50 per cent of all Australians were born overseas, or have a parent who was.

While Australians are united by our values - of respect, freedom, fairness and equality of opportunity - many Australians, including some of us in this room, may differ in first languages, religion, or birth country.

I am particularly proud to be the first Australian Cabinet Minister of Fijian Heritage.

Multiculturalism is our strength, and community broadcasters nourish and amplify this strength.

Today, ethnic community broadcasting includes:

- 2,118 hours of broadcasting per week,
- 122 languages,
- 125 cultural groups,
- 80 stations,
- 79 regional & rural stations, and
- 52 metropolitan stations.

As there always is, and particularly in relation to Stan Grant this week, there has been a lot of discourse about diversity, and there is much to unpack. But what I want to emphasise is that community broadcasting, particularly ethnic and multicultural community broadcasting, are carrying the load when it comes to diverse representations in the media.

Today's conference is so important because it brings together two vital components of our media sector – multicultural media and community broadcasting.

Community Broadcasting

The Albanese Government is committed to supporting a diverse and sustainable media sector so that *all* Australian stories are told and heard.

Including community-centric stories that don't make the headlines, and local music that isn't on the charts – yet.

As people in this room know well, community broadcasting services operate at the heart of local communities.

Staff and volunteers work to deliver local news, tell local stories, and provide a platform for diverse voices and music that is essential to a well-informed and inclusive society.

My first visit as the Minister for Communications last year was to Braidwood FM – or Braidwood Community Radio – to visit the station and acknowledge their achievements.

I felt it to be a significant first Ministerial visit because community radio utilises one of the oldest mediums in the Communications Portfolio, yet remains so vital to modern life across the country.

Community radio contributes significantly to the key broadcasting objectives of localism and diversity, and its freely accessible to Australians of all walks of life.

But not only that, Braidwood FM, like many community broadcasters, exists not just as a broadcaster – but as a lifeline, too.

During the catastrophic Black Summer Fires, Gordon Waters and his team at Braidwood FM were the sole source of local, on the ground, emergency coverage while fires swept through the South East Coast region of NSW.

As fires threatened the town, Braidwood FM told locals which roads were dangerous to drive on, exactly which areas of suburbs were advised to evacuate by the RFS, and where they could find safety near them.

This tailored broadcasting, where audiences can listen to localised information, cannot be underestimated.

The Albanese Government recognises this, and in less than a year we have:

- Provided an additional \$4 million per year of ongoing funding for the Community Broadcasting Program from 2023-24, as part of the October Budget;
- Commenced a review into the sustainability of the sector; and
- Passed legislative amendments through Parliament, to provide greater regulatory clarity and certainty for the sector, and quality programming for audiences.

That's right: My first *visit* as Minister was to a community broadcasting station, my first *Budget* as Minister included funding for community broadcasting, and the first *bill* that I introduced as Minister – which passed the Parliament last December, was for community radio.

I'd like to take this moment to reflect on the Parliamentary debate on the bill, the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Community Radio) Bill 2022. It was a unifying exercise and there is bipartisan support, right across the Parliament. Members from across the country and of a range of political persuasions spoke with warmth of their support for the sector.

In terms of the Community Radio Sustainability Review, this is now well underway and is being undertaken in two parts.

Firstly, the Social Research Centre undertook a survey of community broadcasters, on behalf of the Department, as part of an evaluation of the Community Broadcasting Program.

The findings from this evaluation will inform the second part, which is further consultation on a review of the sustainability of the community broadcasting sector.

I thank NEMBC for participating in the evaluation, and I look forward to the outcomes of the review – which will assist the Government in supporting the sector as well as the contribution of multicultural media to media diversity.

The Albanese Government is committed to working with the sector to continue to empower our community broadcasters.

Newsprint

We are also actively strengthening our multicultural media sector in Australia.

During the peak of the pandemic in 2021, media that catered to our culturally and linguistically diverse Australians were imperative to supporting the safety of our community at large, including in my electorate of Greenway in Western Sydney.

The Blacktown LGA where Greenway sits is home to around 400,000 people representing around 188 birthplaces and 182 different languages. My community experienced some of the most restrictive lockdowns in NSW, and went on to achieve high rates of vaccination.

When we needed to receive messages about COVID vaccinations, testing centres, symptoms and new restrictions, our multicultural media stepped up, sharing information in language so that *all* constituents had the accurate information they needed to stay safe.

In the 2022 Budget, we provided \$15 million to local and regional newspaper publishers to help absorb newsprint price hikes, including \$5 million for eligible local newspaper publishers, like First Nations and multicultural newspaper publishers.

We wasted no time getting the funding out the door and the outcomes of the funding have long been announced and available on Grant Connect.

Here I would like to note a couple of key points, for the record:

During the Federal election campaign, last year, Labor called for support for news publishers in the face of the newsprint crisis, and offered bipartisan support to craft a support package. The Coalition declined this offer and went on to announce a fund for *regional* news publishers.

Labor matched that but bettered it, with additional funding for independent suburban as well as *multicultural* news publishers.

Too often, the multicultural media sector has been overlooked, despite how important it is for media diversity and access to trusted information in Australia.

I am pleased to have ended that oversight.

FECCA Funding

During the pandemic we also saw mis and disinformation emerge like never before, which was referred to as an “infodemic” by the World Health Organisation.

And in a media landscape where English is your second language, it is even more challenging to know which information is reliable.

That’s why, in the 2023-24 Budget, presented only two weeks ago, we dedicated \$2.5 million to my Department, to partner with the Federation of

Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) to support media literacy in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

This measure recognises the need and role for trusted voices to convey information to multicultural communities, and it will build the capacity of the community as well as the Government when it comes to combating harmful information.

The Department and FECCA will develop this partnership and I look forward to having more to say about it in due course.

To that end, it was my pleasure to meet with the Chair, Deputy Chair, CEO and colleagues of FECCA recently, to discuss the commitment and the needs of multicultural communities.

Multicultural media is, of course, an essential part of trusted media ecosystem, and is essential for conveying messages, including Government and health messages to communities.

There is a role for Government in addressing the trusted information ecosystem – both by supporting the sustainability of the media sector but also by combatting misinformation and disinformation which poses a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians, as well as to our democracy, society and economy.

Earlier this year I announced that the Albanese Government will legislate to provide the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) with

new powers to hold digital platforms to account and improve efforts to combat harmful misinformation and disinformation in Australia.

This marks a major step forward in addressing the spread of online misinformation and disinformation which has grown rapidly in scale and speed.

The ACMA will be given new information-gathering and record-keeping powers to create transparency around efforts by digital platforms to respond to misinformation and disinformation on their services, while balancing the right to freedom of expression so fundamental to democracy.

The Government intends to undertake public consultation on the powers through the release of an exposure draft Bill in the near future and introduce legislation in Parliament later this year following consultation – and I invite you to contribute to that process to share your insights.

We know that ethnic and multicultural communities can be targeted by misinformation and scammers in different ways, and we need to understand the evolving online threat matrix from a range of perspectives.

Another area of focus for Government is media literacy.

The Australian Government is improving media literacy in schools, with the rollout of the Digital Licence and Media Literacy Lab for Australian school students, but there is more that needs to be done – particularly after a decade of neglect of this issue under the previous Government.

As I said in my recent address to the Australian Media Literacy Summit, I have directed my department to work across Government departments and agencies to align objectives, principles and priority focus areas linked to media literacy.

Media Literacy overlaps with Digital Literacy and Information Literacy – all of which have a distinct focus with complementary skills and competencies.

And of course, media literacy must be lifelong.

We need to better understand who in our society needs additional support, and what that support will look like – be it for older Australians, people living with a disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and I very much welcome your views on measures to support media literacy.

News MAP

Indeed, part of supporting a diverse media landscape in Australia is a strong news media sector, where facts come first in news coverage – to keep Australians informed and safe.

We have allocated a total of \$5.6 million through the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Budgets to support the initial development of the News Media Assistance Program – known as the ‘News MAP’ – a program of work that will lay the foundations for principled, targeted and evidence-based support for the news media sector.

This will help guide news media policy intervention, and support public interest journalism and media diversity.

For all the reviews and inquiries into the news media sector over the past decade – and there have been many – there is no principled, evidence-based framework to guide government intervention and assistance for the news media sector.

Out of this funding, the Government has announced \$900,000 for the Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI). The funding will support PIJI to continue collecting, analysing and maintaining Australian public interest news and journalism data.

The Government has also set aside up to \$1.5 million in funding for the Local and Independent News Association (LINA). This will underpin LINA's important work supporting digital, hyper-local and independent news publishers.

The News MAP will be released for public consultation in coming weeks, and I look forward to your contributions.

A diversity of voices is an enduring objective of media policy, and one that multicultural media contributes to in a range of ways. You provide service diversity, production diversity – both in terms of on-air talent and behind the scenes – as well as content and program diversity.

Multicultural media shares diverse perspectives and Australia is the richer for it.

Conclusion

As this speech will assure you, the Albanese Government is well aware of the value that both community broadcasting and multicultural media presents for all Australians.

You keep us safe, you keep us entertained and you keep us informed.

In less than a year, I am proud to say that the Albanese Government is delivering on our commitment to ensure the media sector is diverse, sustainable and that it caters to and for ***all*** Australians.

Thank you.

[ENDS].

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: noreply@pws.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 30 May 2023 9:57 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: QB23-000855 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

has assigned the below PDR to you in the department-wide tenant.

Record Details	
PDR Subject	BROADCAST – ABC and Stan Grant
Processing Instructions	for your review please
Milestones	Due for Clearance : 23/05/2023 10:00:00 AM Due to Parliamentary : 23/05/2023 10:00:00 AM
Status	MO Editing

This record can be actioned via the following link: [QB23-000855](#).

Did you know the [PDMS+ CONNECT page](#) has great resources available to guide you through your process? Why not take a look!

For help using PDMS+, head to the for Quick Reference Guides or contact the PDMS+ Team at s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](#)

Contact MPS – s22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Contacts	
General enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Question Time + QTB enquires	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
PQoN enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Senate Estimates enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
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PDMS enquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au
Committee Inquiries	s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

Kind regards

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

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 GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
 CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS



I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 10:21 AM
To: DLO Rowland; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE - Possible QoNs for Minister's response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)
 Yes we can do these.
 s22(1)(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

From: DLO Rowland s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 10:16 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au>
Cc: DLO Rowland s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR RESPONSE - Possible QoNs for Minister's response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Morning

Seeking your advice on the below thank you, in regard to 3 SQoNs concerning ABC and News MAP.

Cheers

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Department Liaison Officer

P +61 2 s22(1)(a) M s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: Senate Estimates s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 10:13 AM
To: DLO Rowland s22(1)(a)(ii) @MO.communications.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; Senate Estimates s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FOR RESPONSE - Possible QoNs for Minister's response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning

During the process of reviewing Hansard we came across 3 QoNs that Senator Carol Brown took on notice at the recent EC Budget Estimates hearing. We are now seeking your advice as to whether the Minister is happy to prepare the response to these QoNs?

PDR No	Subject	Full Question Text
SQ23-003743	Correspondence or emails in relation to allegations against ABC senior management	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. I have obviously raised that very serious concern, and we've now clarified the total funding provided to the eSafety Commissioner. I want to move on because I'm conscious of time. I want to move back to the issue of Stan Grant. Firstly, I want to condemn the racist attacks against Stan Grant. They are appalling. But I want to go to the minister's statement released today. Assistant Minister, there have been multiple allegations of racism by ABC employees against senior ABC management. What concerns has the minister raised about the ABC's conduct, because I am very concerned that there was no reference to the ABC's conduct in her statement today?</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: Obviously, that statement was about Mr Grant. As I indicated when I was responding earlier to a question, the minister has spoken to the ABC regarding this particular incident.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Did she raise concerns about the very serious allegations made against senior ABC management?</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I'm not privy to the whole conversation. So—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you take on notice and provide the committee with any correspondence or emails in relation to allegations against ABC senior management please.</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: Sure. I'll take that on notice for you</p>
SQ23-003745	Serious allegations of racism amongst ABC senior management	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Minister, with respect, because Minister Rowland has direct portfolio responsibility for the ABC, I'm asking what action the minister is taking in relation to dealing with these very serious allegations of racism amongst ABC senior management.</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I explained to the committee that the minister has called the ABC managing director. I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But what's the action?</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: She's taken it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I've taken on notice the other issues that you talked about. The ABC has operational independence, and the ABC management, as I understand it, has responded.</p>

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Senate Estimates Coordinator

Communication, Ministerial & Parliamentary • Communication, Research, Strategy and Parliamentary Division

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