

# Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of Australia’s national broadcasters

## Submission – Jacinta O'Shea (15 May 2018)

### Question 8: Considering the commercial activities of the national broadcasters (e.g. where they are selling or purchasing goods and services), is there evidence that they have taken undue advantage of their government ownership, to the detriment of competitive outcomes?

### In short , no.

### Question 9: What is the differential impact of regulation on commercial and national broadcasters, and is there evidence of consequent adverse impacts on competition and outcomes?

### aunty & sbs have different regulations applied to them as opposed to commercial regulations. Aunty & sbs leave commercial operations in their wake. Commercial operators pass off advertising as news an expect the public to swallow such poor journalism as ok. It’s not ok. As a taxpayer I want news, and I expect to pay for it. I want journalists to be free to report in an unbiased investigative fashion. I don’t want to hear News Corp bemoaning the funding for a national broadcaster. Neither do I want to hear politicians complain about journalists investigating what they’re up to. That’s called democracy at work. Just as you must account for your expenses so must you also expect journalists to go snooping. That’s their job. It called keeping you honest. Commercial operators don’t always report on things occurring in the country & world because it’s not palatable. That’s why we have a national broadcaster. I want to know if something awful is occurring in the world, if I find it’s unpalatable I’ll switch off, but I’ll make that decision not some executive in Sydney with too many dollars & not enough sense. If your are silly enough to tune into commercial broadcasters then you deserve suboptimal content they provide.

### Question 10: Is the reporting and accountability by the national broadcasters on their best endeavours to observe competitive neutrality adequate?

Yes.

Question 11: Are you aware of any specific instances where the ABC or SBS may have received any other competitive advantage, due to their public ownership, to the detriment of a private competitor?

### No. News Corp gets golden handshakes, the money comes from the government & the national broadcasters have money taken from them. How’s that being detrimental to private competitors?

### Question 12: The SBS Charter requires it to take into account the activities of the ABC and community television on radio and television. In the context of the competitive neutrality principles how in your view, is the SBS complying with this requirement? From your perspective does it adequately cover the activities of the SBS?

### Q1. Well

### Q2. Yes

### Question 13: From your perspective do the national broadcasters seek a balance between competing in the market and complementing the market? Is that balance the same for traditional broadcasting and for new digital platforms?

### Q1. Yes but no. See response to question 9

### Q2. Yes

### Question 14: Do you have comment on these guiding principles?