

**Communications Legislation Amendment (Online Content Services and Other Measures)  
Bill 2017**

**Free TV Australia**

**Hansard pages 17 – 18**

**Senator URQUHART:**

Based on current scheduling practices, what sports are broadcast by free TV members after 8:30 pm?

**Answer:** While the start and finish time of sporting events is determined by the relevant governing body of the sport, generally broadcasts do not start after 8.30pm. On occasion, some broadcasts may start before 8.30pm but go beyond 8.30pm. Some examples of this would include the AFL or rugby (last half/quarter of night games only) and day night cricket. We would note though that whether these matches would go beyond 8.30pm would be time zone dependent, for example a match might finish after 8.30pm on the eastern seaboard but before 8.30pm in WA, because of the time difference.

**Senator URQUHART:**

The committee has also received a proposal that the definition of 'geographical link to Australia' should provide an express exception for services that are geo-blocked to Australia. Do you have a view on that proposal?

**Answer:** It is unclear to us how international services that are effectively geo-blocked would be captured by the ban. Similarly, it is unclear why an exemption is required if at no fault of the online service provider, a user circumvents geo-blocking technology. These scenarios should not require an exemption.