

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Inquiry into the National Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill 2010
Questions on Notice

Hansard Ref: Pgs 32 and 33

Topic: National Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—If you were to compare the criteria for appointment as a member of the nomination panel with the criteria for appointment as an ABC board member, how would your comparison look?

Senator FISHER—Can you provide them on notice?

Senator FISHER—Just out of those, I will ask you to take on notice a comparison of the criteria, which you are also going to provide on notice, for being a member of the nomination panel, versus the criteria required under the guidelines to be a member of the ABC board.

Answer:

The criteria for making recommendations to the ABC Board and appointing members to the Nomination Panel are not directly comparable, since they serve quite different purposes. The criteria considered in appointing members to the Nomination Panel are not prescribed in the Bill. In making appointments to the Panel, the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet takes account of the ability of potential Panel members to conduct a merit based appointment process. In making appointments to the Nomination Panel, the Secretary has taken the following into consideration:

- The candidate's experience on boards and in large organisations;
- The candidate's understanding of corporate governance; and
- An appropriate representation by gender and States.

In making appointments, the Secretary sought to select people who had this range of experience, who would be respected by both sides of politics, and together would have the widest possible understanding of aspects of Australian life and culture.

The criteria used for appointment to the ABC Board are prescribed in the Guidelines and used to assess all applicants as part of the merit-based appointment process. The criteria for selection are:

- Candidates must be able to demonstrate one or more of the following capabilities:
 - Experience in connection with the provision of broadcasting services or in communications or management, or
 - Having expertise in financial or technical matters, or
 - Having cultural or other interests relevant to the oversight of a public organisation engaged in the provision of broadcasting services
- Candidates should also demonstrate skills, knowledge and/or experience relevant to one or more of the following areas:

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- Managing large and/or complex operations;
 - Past record of effective participation on boards or public organisations;
 - High level analytical skills; and/or
 - Knowledge of the media environment, trends and the challenges (which might include developments in technology and content rights management).
- Candidates will possess:
 - Demonstrated high level leadership and vision, and ability to articulate a clear direction for an organisation;
 - Commitment to public sector governance;
 - High-level judgement;
 - The highest standards of professional and personal integrity; and
 - An understanding of the ABC, its Charter and its place in the Australian media environment.