

**Response to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Inquiry into the National Broadcasters Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Transparency) Bill 2017**

1) Why does the Department consider the requirement that the BBC report its senior executives' salaries as an example model for Australian public broadcasters to follow?

The Department considers best practice when developing new policy. Like the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is a global leader among national broadcasters. The salary transparency of the BBC is considered to be good practice.

In 2009, the BBC agreed to publish the salaries, total remuneration, declarations of personal interests, expenses, gifts and hospitality for all senior managers who have a full time equivalent salary of 150,000 pounds or more or who sit on a major divisional board. These details are now published annually on the BBC website. In July 2017, the BBC also began publishing the names and salaries of its highest-earning actors and presenters.

2) Has the Department considered the potential financial and other impacts on public broadcasters should the bill be enacted?

The Bill is not expected to have financial impacts on the national broadcasters. The national broadcasters will be required to publish information available from within existing internal systems.

In relation to other potential impacts, the increased transparency will provide the public with visibility over critical issues such as how the national broadcasters are ensuring gender pay parity amongst their highest-earning employees.

In the drafting process, the Department attempted to balance issues such as the need to protect privacy against the competing need to improve public visibility over how the national broadcasters allocate and spend the significant taxpayer funding which they receive each year.