



17 October 2024

The Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

RE: Correction of evidence

I would like to make a correction to the evidence that I presented this afternoon to the Committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024.

During the hearing, Senator Roberts asked me if the ABC Charter contained the word "balance". As the discussion in the hearing had focused on news, I interpreted his question as relating to balance in news reporting and answered in the negative.

In fact, the ABC Charter does contain the word "balance": subsection 6(2)(a)(iii) of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* requires the Corporation to take account of its responsibility "as the provider of an independent national broadcasting service to provide a balance between broadcasting programs of wide appeal and specialised broadcasting programs".

I would be happy to take on notice any questions that Senator Roberts might have asked had I provided the correct response to his question.

Yours sincerely,

David Sutton
Senior Strategist