



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## Media Release

**Public Hearing – Wednesday 11 February – 9.45-11.00am**

**Review of Special Broadcasting Service *Annual Report, 2002 -2003***

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts will conduct a review of the Special Broadcasting Service's Annual Report, 2002 -2003 on 11 February, 2004 at Parliament House, Canberra.

Committee Chair, Mr Bob Baldwin MP (Lib: Paterson, NSW), said that "SBS has a news service and documentary schedule that broadcasts information from all over the globe and it is one of the SBS's core activities that are reported in its annual report. It forms an important element in that annual report and in the SBS's charter obligations," Mr Baldwin said.

"SBS refers in the report to its reputation as the 'pre-eminent international news service on Australian free-to-air television'. SBS also reported it had conducted the most extensive community consultations in its history."

"But Members have received representations from constituents concerning SBS's alleged:

- bias in the reporting of events that have offended the Vietnamese community and the Jewish community
- inadequate complaints handling processes; and
- failure to consult adequately with members of a refugee community in respect of the broadcast of a news program produced by the government of their former homeland."

"These matters, the responses SBS has made to them, and other aspects of the annual report, will be reviewed by the Committee," Mr Baldwin said.

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**TIME:** Wednesday 11 February, 9:45 am-11.00am  
**VENUE:** Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra  
**COMMENT:** Mr Robert Baldwin MP, Chair. Tel: 02 4983 1330

Members of the public who wish to observe proceedings should ask for directions from the information desk in the Marble Foyer of Parliament House.

4 February 2004