

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To inquire into, and report on, communications to and within Australia's External Territories, with particular reference to:

1. identifying the elements of a comprehensive and modern communications system required by communities with the characteristics of the External Territories;
2. the adequacy of existing services in meeting the communications (being broadcasting, postal, internet and on-line services, and telecommunications) needs of the residents of the External Territories;
3. the extent to which communications services available to the residents of the External Territories are of a similar standard to those available in Australia generally, and
4. the strategies required to address the future communications needs of the residents of the External Territories, including the costs, the roles of government, the private sector and the communities themselves in addressing those needs.