

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 55

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 34-35, 28/02/2017

Topic: SBS and Security Agencies – De-radicalisation

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: Again, without divulging information that would be inappropriate for you to divulge, is there an existing relationship between SBS and the security agencies or the agencies focusing more on the area of de-radicalisation? Is there a formal dialogue? Is there a formal relationship that already exists, or is that an area that needs to be developed?

Mr Ebeid: The latter. I think we do not have the sorts of relationships that you are talking about. I think we would welcome the opportunity. We have not developed them at the moment, but it is an opportunity for us.

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, are you able to take on notice—

CHAIR: Sorry, Senator Dastyari, your time has finished.

Senator DASTYARI: Just one on notice?

CHAIR: Very, very quickly.

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, are you able to take on notice, perhaps, facilitating those meetings between SBS and the security agencies, and let us know at the next estimates how it has gone?

Senator Fifield: Sure.

Answer:

SBS would welcome the opportunity to meet with security agencies on the issue of social cohesion and de-radicalisation.

The Department of Communications and the Arts organised introductions between Mr Ebeid and Senior SBS staff to relevant senior officials in the Attorney-General's Department with responsibility for security and radicalisation matters.