

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 59**

**Special Broadcasting Services Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 03/03/2017**

**Topic: Director of News and Current Affairs position**

**Senator Abetz, Eric asked:**

1. When was the position of Director of News and Current Affairs filled?
2. Was the position advertised? If so, when and how? If not, please explain why not and the selection process in determining the appointment.

**Answer:**

1. 1 July 2013.
2. The role was not advertised. SBS canvassed the market on a discrete basis in considering potential candidates for the role. SBS does have the ability to canvass and appoint candidates on a direct basis without advertising the role when deemed appropriate.

The selection involved:

- Identification of an internal candidate - the current News and Current Affairs (NACA) Director was in the position of Executive Producer (EP) for *SBS World News* and had been earlier identified as a succession option for the retiring NACA Director.
- Discrete market testing.
- SBS determined that the internal promotion of the EP of *World News* would lead to the appointment of the strongest candidate for the job.

Subsequent interviews were held by the Managing Director and with the Chairman of the SBS Board with the internal candidate before deciding on the appointment.