

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2015
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 162

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 23, 30/11/15

Topic: Digital Service Standard

Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Sorry, I was not necessarily seeking to link the two; this is certainly broader than a choice of CMS—I jumped sideways a little bit. But coming directly to that question, what has the ABC done, if anything, to look at that digital service standard?

Mr Pendleton: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: Could you?

Mr Pendleton: Yes.

Senator LUDLAM: I would be surprised to hear that—I do not want to put words in your mouth, but you are making it sound like it is not particularly relevant, and yet your core business is increasingly—

Mr Pendleton: Let me take it on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: Yes. There are 14 individual criteria that government agencies will be expected to—

CHAIR: And you have 10 minutes, Senator Ludlam.

Senator LUDLAM: I recognise your independence, your charter, a whole pile of other stuff that means a minister cannot wave a finger and force you to do stuff, but most of the criteria actually look pretty sensible, and so I am wondering—

Mr Pendleton: In which case we would certainly look at utilising any of that stuff.

Senator LUDLAM: Okay. Without going to too much trouble, I would really appreciate some understanding of how you have addressed the criteria that are set out. I will leave it there.

Answer:

Pursuant to sections 78(6) and 78(7) of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*, the ABC is not bound by the Digital Service Standard. The Digital Transformation Office acknowledges that the Digital Service Standard applies to all existing and new Australian Government (federal) services that are the responsibility of a government department or agency (*PGPA Act* non-Corporate entity) but *not* to *PGPA Act* Corporate entities, of which the ABC is one.

Notwithstanding the above, the ABC takes such policies and standards into account when determining its operational approaches and policies.

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The ABC is aware of the development of the Digital Service Standard and staff members have attended workshops on the work of the Digital Transformation Office and the Digital Service Standard. ABC Digital Network division has included consideration of the Beta version of the Digital Service Standard in planning its future Technology Architecture. The ABC is an early adopter of many of the criteria in the Standard and will continue to adopt approaches that help deliver the ABC's digital services to our audience.