

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 189

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 78 (19/11/2013)

Topic: Universal Service Obligation

Senator Scott Ludlam asked:

Is it still anticipated that TUSMA would retain its independent status as the delivery mechanism for the USO in this brave new world that we are entering? What is this current government's policy on the universal service obligation?

Answer:

The Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA) is established under legislation and continues to fulfil its objectives in accordance with its statutory obligations.

The Universal Service Obligation (USO) is a statutory requirement on Telstra, as the Primary Universal Service Provider, to ensure that standard telephone services and payphones are reasonably accessible to all people in Australia, wherever they reside or carry on business. The Government expects Telstra to meet its requirements in accordance with the regulatory framework.