



SBS Corporation - Australia's multicultural broadcaster

31 May 2004

Senator Alan Eggleston
Chair
Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Eggleston

I refer to the evidence given by the Special Broadcasting Service at the hearings on 25 May 2004.

I am writing to provide clarification of my response to a question by Senator Mackay which appears on ECITA 97 of the Hansard of the proceedings on that date.

Senator Mackay sought confirmation of whether or not SBS Board member Christopher Pearson had sought certain changes to the SBS Codes. This question was followed immediately by a second question: "Is he involved in such inappropriate activity?"

My response as recorded on the Hansard was intended to reply to the matters raised in the first question. In it, I explained the SBS Board's processes for review of its Codes of Practice.

This response was not intended to imply agreement with the suggestion in Senator Mackay's second question. It was aimed at explaining that Code reviews occur from time to time in accordance with Board processes and all suggested changes, regardless of their source, are considered by the Board as part of that. Given this is an established process, there is nothing inappropriate in a Board member suggesting changes.

I trust that the Committee will accept this clarification of my response.

Yours sincerely



Julie Eisenberg
Head of Policy

Cc: Senator Sue Mackay (Deputy Chair)