

**Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

Additional Estimates Hearings 16 and 17 February 2004

Outcome 1, Output 1.1, 1.2

Question: 56

Topic: JENIN JENIN PROGRAM

Hansard Page: Written Question on Notice

Senator Santoro asked:

In answering my question on notice No 14 tabled at the supplementary estimates hearing on 3 November 2003, in relation to SBS having screened the Palestinian-made film Jenin, Jenin, made by a someone who appeared to be a member of a terrorist organisation, SBS states that it is not customary for SBS, or any other broadcaster SBS knows of, to conduct background checks on the producers, directors or writers of programmes that are acquired.

Isn't it the case that the circumstances surrounding the film were widely enough known for someone within the relevant SBS department to have been aware of them? Isn't it just a cop-out to accept no responsibility for making such judgments?

Answer:

The procedures for assessing the suitability of the program for broadcast and the grounds for scheduling it with an accompanying program were outlined in the attachment to QON 14.

The broadcast of this program was subject to external review by the Australian Broadcasting Authority. A copy of that determination is attached.