

PART B

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

PORTFOLIO AGENCIES INCLUDED IN PART C OF THIS DOCUMENT

Australia Council

Australian National Maritime Museum

National Library of Australia

National Museum of Australia

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation

For information, an overview of each agency in the Portfolio is provided below.

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

"A cultural environment that enriches the lives of all Australians."

"Competitive and diverse communications and information technology industries and services."

"Australians have electronic access to Government information and services."

"Competitive advantage in the global information economy to enhance Australian social well-being."

The Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts supports the communications, information technology and cultural sectors by providing strategic policy advice to Government and delivering a range of Commonwealth grants, payments and incentive programs.

Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA)

"An accessible, diverse and responsible broadcasting industry."

The primary functions of the ABA are to plan the availability of the broadcasting services bands of the spectrum, allocate, renew, suspend and cancel broadcasting licenses, conduct investigations and hearings in relation to the allocation of licenses and operation of ownership and control rules. In addition the ABA assists broadcasters develop codes of practice, and monitors compliance by licensees with their licence conditions and with the provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

"The ABC will create and deliver distinctive programming and services; inform, entertain and educate its audiences; and develop cultural and community identity."

"The ABC will maintain the scale and quality of analog terrestrial transmission of its national networks, regional networks and Radio Australia programming which existed immediately prior to the privatisation of the National Transmission Network."

The ABC is a national broadcaster funded by and accountable to Parliament. It is one of the country's most important cultural institutions. It contributes to and reflects Australia's national identity, fosters creativity and the arts and encourages cultural diversity.

Australian Communications Authority (ACA)

"An efficient industry and a competitive market."

"An informed community with consumer safeguards."

The role of the ACA is to contribute to an efficient, competitive and increasingly self-regulated communications sector, which meets the needs of the Australian community.

Australia Council

"That Australian artists create and present a body of distinctive cultural works characterised by the pursuit of excellence."

"Australian citizens and civic institutions appreciate, understand, participate in, enjoy and celebrate the

arts." The Australia Council's overall goal is to provide leadership in enriching Australians' cultural life. It does this by providing advice, by supporting excellence in artistic endeavors, by underpinning the artistic practice of individuals and companies and by increasing the engagement of all Australian people, their communities and their civic institutions in cultural activities.

Australian Film Commission (AFC)

"Development of an internationally competitive Australian screen industry."

The AFC provides professional and industry development opportunities through a range of measures including, but not limited to:

- assistance to industry organisations with the aim of developing audiences and a diverse screen culture in Australia;
- development of Indigenous film and television program makers; and
- monitoring film and television industry performance and providing information, research and analysis.

Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS)

"Enhanced cultural identity."

The role of the AFTRS is to provide advanced education and training in program making for the Australian broadcast media industries which will enhance the Australian cultural identity.

Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM)

"Increased knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of Australia's relationship with its waterways and the sea."

The role of the ANMM is to acquire, research, conserve and present material relevant to Australia's maritime heritage.

National Gallery of Australia (NGA)

"Encourage understanding, knowledge and enjoyment of the visual arts by providing access to and information about works of art locally, nationally and internationally."

The Gallery's aim is to provide access to works of art and information about them locally, nationally and internationally.

National Library of Australia (NLA)

"Australians have access, through the National Library of Australia, to a comprehensive collection of Australian library material and to international documentary resources."

Some of the functions of the National Library are:

- To maintain and develop a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people.

- To make library material in the national collection available.

National Museum of Australia (NMA)

"Australians have access to the National Museum's collections and public programs

to encourage awareness and understanding of Australia's history and culture."

The role of the NMA is to research Australian history, develop and maintain a national collection of historical material, create exhibitions and programs which explore our heritage and history, and make it accessible to more Australians.

Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

"Provide multilingual and multicultural services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians and in so doing reflect Australia's multicultural society."

The SBS seeks to contribute to a more cohesive, equitable and harmonious Australia through its television and radio services.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES AND VARIATIONS - PORTFOLIO LEVEL

From the further sale of 16.6% of Telstra, funds have been provided to the Social Bonus initiatives. In total, Social Bonus initiative funding is \$1 billion, of which the Portfolio is responsible for \$670m over 5 years. Of the \$670m, \$319m is reflected as an Additional Estimate variation to the budget and forward estimates. The other major variation to the Department's estimates is the supplementation for depreciation following the revaluation of NAA assets and initial valuation of SSA's heritage collection. The additional funding for depreciation has realised an increase in Capital Use Charge (CUC) funding.

SBS has been funded \$2 million to enable the establishment of a New Media Unit. The funds are being provided from the Television Fund established following the sale of a further 16.6% of Telstra.

Additional Estimate variations for SBS include:

- \$0.186 million to cover the indexation of costs associated with Transmission Services;
- \$0.170 million for additional costs associated with the relocation of the Sydney Analogue Television Service;
- \$1.200 million reduction in the Cost of Outcomes results from the recognition of the repayment of a capital component of a loan as an equity injection;
- \$0.986 million to cover the cost of the Capital Use Charge (CUC) in 1999-2000.

- \$3.400 million from the Television fund, established following the sale of a further 16.6% of Telstra, for the extension of Television Services to transmission areas of more than 10,000.

Additional Estimate variation for the National Library of Australia relates to the Property Group (DoFA) changing the method used to determine the property rental rate. The effect of the change is that rent for two overseas properties will increase by \$0.038m.

Additional Estimate variation for the National Museum relates to increased rental charges on its repository building, which stems from Government's move towards commercialisation of Special Purpose & Industrial Estate (\$0.033m).