

Charters of ABC and SBS

These charters, taken from the Acts mentioned, are referred to in submissions by the Australian Subscription Radio and Television Association (ASTRA)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Charter

(quoted from s. 6 the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983)

(1) The functions of the Corporation are:

- (a) to provide within Australia innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard as part of the Australian broadcasting system consisting of national, commercial and public sectors and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to provide:
 - (i) broadcasting programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of, the Australian community; and
 - (ii) broadcasting programs of an educational nature;

- (b) to transmit to countries outside Australia broadcasting programs of news, current affairs, entertainment and cultural enrichment that will:
 - (i) encourage awareness of Australia and an international understanding of Australian attitudes on world affairs; and
 - (ii) enable Australian citizens living or travelling outside Australia to obtain information about Australian affairs and Australian attitudes on world affairs; and

(c) to encourage and promote the musical, dramatic and other performing arts in Australia.

(2) In the provision by the Corporation of its broadcasting services within Australia:

- (a) the Corporation shall take account of:
 - (i) the broadcasting services provided by the commercial and public sectors of the Australian broadcasting system;
 - (ii) the standards from time to time determined by the Australian Broadcasting Authority in respect of broadcasting services;
 - (iii) the responsibility of the Corporation as the provider of an independent national broadcasting service to provide a balance between broadcasting programs of wide appeal and specialized broadcasting programs;
 - (iv) the multicultural character of the Australian community; and
 - (v) in connection with the provision of broadcasting programs of an educational nature—the responsibilities of the States in relation to education; and

(b) the Corporation shall take all such measures, being measures consistent with the obligations of the Corporation under paragraph (a), as, in the opinion of the Board, will be conducive to the full development by the Corporation of suitable broadcasting programs.

(3) The functions of the Corporation under subsection (1) and the duties imposed on the Corporation under subsection (2) constitute the Charter of the Corporation.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be taken to impose on the Corporation a duty that is enforceable by proceedings in a court.

Special Broadcasting Service Charter

(quoted from s. 6 of the Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991)

- (1) The principal function of SBS is to provide multilingual and multicultural radio and television services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians and, in doing so, reflect Australia's multicultural society.
- (2) SBS, in performing its principal function, must:
 - (a) contribute to meeting the communications needs of Australia's multicultural society, including ethnic, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
 - (b) increase awareness of the contribution of a diversity of cultures to the continuing development of Australian society; and
 - (c) promote understanding and acceptance of the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of the Australian people; and
 - (d) contribute to the retention and continuing development of language and other cultural skills; and
 - (e) as far as practicable, inform, educate and entertain Australians in their preferred languages; and
 - (f) make use of Australia's diverse creative resources; and
 - (g) contribute to the overall diversity of Australian television and radio services, particularly taking into account the contribution of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the community broadcasting sector; and
 - (h) contribute to extending the range of Australian television and radio services, and reflect the changing nature of Australian society, by presenting many points of view and using innovative forms of expression.