



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of Australia's national broadcasters

29 March 2018

The Turnbull Government has appointed an experienced panel to conduct an Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of the national broadcasters.

The Inquiry will examine whether Australia's national broadcasters – the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) – are operating in a manner consistent with the principles of competitive neutrality.

Competitive neutrality principles provide that government business activities should not enjoy net competitive advantages simply by virtue of their public sector ownership.

Mr Robert Kerr will chair the panel, bringing his economic and competition policy expertise to the Inquiry. Mr Kerr is a consulting economist and former head of staff at the Commonwealth Productivity Commission. He was also a Commissioner of the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, where he conducted public inquiries into regulatory issues.

Mr Kerr will be joined by Ms Julie Flynn and Ms Sandra Levy AO, who will provide their wealth of media and broadcasting experience to the Inquiry.

Ms Flynn was the CEO of Free TV Australia from 2001 until 2016. She joined Free TV after 25 years in journalism at the ABC and commercial broadcasters. Ms Flynn is a Walkley Award winner and a former President of the Canberra Press Gallery.

Ms Levy is a director and producer with an extensive background in screen and cultural organisations. She is a former CEO of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School and has held senior roles with major broadcasters and producers, including as Head of Drama and later Director of Television at the ABC. Ms Levy was recently appointed to the board of the NIDA Foundation Trust.

The panel will consult relevant stakeholders during the Inquiry and be supported by a Taskforce in the Department of Communications and the Arts.

The Terms of Reference and further information on the Inquiry are available at: www.communications.gov.au/competitive-neutrality-inquiry

Media contacts:

Geraldine Mitchell | 0407 280 476 | Geraldine.Mitchell@communications.gov.au
Guy Creighton | 0438 815 302 | Guy.Creighton@communications.gov.au