

# THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL CHARTER

From the Australia Council Act 1975

The Australia Council is a Commonwealth statutory authority created under the *Australia Council Act 1975*. Under the Act the Council has substantial independence from government in its policy-making and funding roles. It provides advice on cultural matters to the Commonwealth Government through the Minister for the Arts.

Section 5 of the Act defines the functions of the Council as:

- (a) to formulate and carry out policies designed:
  - (i) to promote excellence in the arts;
  - (ii) to provide, and encourage the provision of, opportunities for persons to practise the arts;
  - (iii) to promote the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the arts;
  - (iv) to promote the general application of the arts in the community;
  - (v) to foster the expression of a national identity by means of the arts;
  - (vi) to uphold and promote the right of persons to freedom in the practice of the arts;
  - (vii) to promote knowledge and appreciation of Australian arts by persons in other countries;
  - (viii) to promote incentives for, and recognition of, achievement in the practice of the arts;and
  - (ix) to encourage the support of the arts by the States, local governing bodies and other persons and organisations;
- (b) to furnish advice to the Government of the Commonwealth, either of its own motion or upon request made to it by the Minister, on matters connected with the promotion of the arts or otherwise relating to the performance of its functions; and
- (c) to do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the foregoing functions.

*The full text of the Australia Council Act, with amendments, is found in Commonwealth Consolidated Acts at [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/aca1975184/index.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/aca1975184/index.html) Commonwealth legislation in official written form can be obtained from the [Ausinfo](#).*

## AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION ACT 1983

### SECT 6: Charter of the Corporation

(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.

<http://www.abc.net.au>

## **AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION**

See Vision and Objectives

[http://www.afc.gov.au/about/corpora/corp\\_plan/corp\\_plan.pdf](http://www.afc.gov.au/about/corpora/corp_plan/corp_plan.pdf)

# BROADCASTING SERVICES ACT 1992

Commonwealth of Australia

## 3 Objects of this Act

- (1) The objects of this Act are:
  - (a) to promote the availability to audiences throughout Australia of a diverse range of radio and television services offering entertainment, education and information; and
  - (aa) to promote the availability to audiences and users throughout Australia of a diverse range of datacasting services; and
  - (b) to provide a regulatory environment that will facilitate the development of a broadcasting industry in Australia that is efficient, competitive and responsive to audience needs; and
  - (ba) to provide a regulatory environment that will facilitate the development of a datacasting industry in Australia that is efficient, competitive and responsive to audience and user needs; and
  - (c) to encourage diversity in control of the more influential broadcasting services; and
  - (d) to ensure that Australians have effective control of the more influential broadcasting services; and
  - (e) to promote the role of broadcasting services in developing and reflecting a sense of Australian identity, character and cultural diversity; and
  - (f) to promote the provision of high quality and innovative programming by providers of broadcasting services; and
  - (fa) to promote the provision of high quality and innovative content by providers of datacasting services; and
  - (g) to encourage providers of commercial and community broadcasting services to be responsive to the need for a fair and accurate coverage of matters of public interest and for an appropriate coverage of matters of local significance; and
  - (h) to encourage providers of broadcasting services to respect community standards in the provision of program material; and
  - (i) to encourage the provision of means for addressing complaints about broadcasting services; and
  - (j) to ensure that providers of broadcasting services place a high priority on the protection of children from exposure to program material which may be harmful to them; and
  - (ja) to ensure that international broadcasting services are not provided contrary to Australia's national interest; and
  - (k) to provide a means for addressing complaints about certain Internet content; and
  - (l) to restrict access to certain Internet content that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; and
  - (m) to protect children from exposure to Internet content that is unsuitable for children; and
- (n) to ensure the maintenance and, where possible, the development of diversity, including public, community and indigenous broadcasting, in the Australian broadcasting system in the transition to digital broadcasting.

# FILM FINANCE CORPORATION AUSTRALIA

The Film Finance Corporation Australia (FFC) is the Government's primary agency for funding screen production. It invests in a diverse range of feature films, adult television drama, children's television drama and documentary.

The FFC's mission statement is to strengthen cultural identity by:

- supporting a highly professional and creative Australian screen production industry;
- entertaining and informing Australian audiences with a diversity of screen images;
- showcasing Australia's screen production industry to the world.

The FFC's objectives:

- finance the production of a diverse range of Australian film and television product;
- maximise opportunities for audiences to view FFC financed film and television product;
- increase the volume of production generated by: co-investing with the marketplace and maximising recoupment;
- provide a centralised source of market intelligence for the benefit of film and television practitioners;
- efficiently and effectively manage the FFC and its resources for the shareholder, the Commonwealth of Australia.

<http://www.ffc.gov.au/>

# SPECIAL BROADCASTING SERVICE (SBS)

## **SBS**

SBS was established as an independent statutory authority on 1 January 1978 under the Broadcasting Act 1942. The Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991 (C'wlth) which came into effect on 23 December 1991, established SBS as a Corporation. This Act gives SBS a clear charter setting out what the Australian people through the Parliament require of SBS as a national broadcaster.

## **Our Charter**

The functions which Parliament has prescribed for SBS are set out in the Charter of the Corporation (section 6 of the Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991) and are:

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.

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 public 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.

**Vision Statement**

SBS: Uniting and enriching our society by creatively communicating the values, the voices and the visions of multicultural Australia and the contemporary world.

<http://www.sbs.com.au>