



# ABC Information Publication Scheme – Agency Plan

## 1. Introduction

The ABC is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act)<sup>1</sup> and is required to comply with the information publication scheme (IPS) requirements in that Act. This agency plan sets out how the ABC proposes to do this.

The ABC is an independent statutory authority established as a corporation under the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act* (Cth) 1983. The ABC is Australia's primary public broadcaster and strives to provide high-quality programming, independent news and information, and content that enriches Australian communities. The ABC's role is to uphold the ABC Charter by connecting with audiences through distinctive content that informs, educates and entertains. The ABC delivers a wide range of services across multiple platforms, including national radio networks, local radio stations, digital radio, podcasts, extensive online content, four television channels, international broadcasting platforms and a diverse commercial arm.

The ABC Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the functions of the Corporation are performed efficiently and with the maximum benefit to the people of Australia, while maintaining the ABC's independence and integrity.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is in accordance with subsection 8(1) of the FOI Act, to:

- assist the ABC in planning and developing its contribution to the IPS;
- facilitate public feedback about the ABC's contribution to the IPS;
- identify the information the ABC proposes to publish, and how and to whom it will be published; and
- identify how the ABC will otherwise comply with the IPS requirements.

## 3. Objectives

The ABC's objectives are to outline procedures to:

- identify and publish all information that is required to be published under s 8(2) on the ABC's website (s 8D(3));
- identify and publish other optional information (s 8(4));

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<sup>1</sup> The ABC is exempt from the operation of the FOI Act in relation to its program material (s 7(2); Schedule 2, Part II refers).

- ensure that the information published is reviewed regularly for accuracy, currency and completeness (s 8B);
- ensure that information published is easily discoverable, understandable and machine-readable;
- where practicable, comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2); and
- adopt best practice initiatives in implementing and administering the ABC's contribution to the IPS.

## 4. Establishing and administering the ABC's IPS entry

### *Administration of the ABC's IPS entry*

The Senior Officer is responsible for leading the ABC's compliance with the IPS. The ABC's contribution to the IPS will be managed by the ABC Legal team.

ABC Legal will maintain a register of information that is required or permitted to be published under ss 8(2) and 8(4) to ensure the ABC is publishing the information on its website in compliance with the FOI Act and the Information Commissioner's 'Guidelines – Information publication scheme' (<http://www.oaic.gov.au/>).

### *Review and maintenance of IPS entry*

The ABC recognises the need to ensure that published information is accurate, up-to-date, and complete. The ABC will review its implementation of the IPS and update its plan as required.

Some categories of information will be updated as soon as reasonably practicable after any change to that information, for instance, information relating to the ABC's structure, statutory appointments and reports. Other information will be updated on a periodic basis in line with the regular reviews outlined above, as required by sections 8F(a) and 9(1).

### *Other matters*

The ABC will publish on its website a list of any IPS documents that are impracticable to publish online. A person seeking to access these documents may contact the ABC.

Charges may be imposed where information cannot be downloaded from the ABC's website and where the ABC has incurred specific reproduction or incidental costs (s 8(4)). Where relevant, charges will be consistent with charges in the [Freedom of Information \(Charges\) Regulations](#) (Cth) 1982.

## 5. IPS information architecture

The ABC will publish its IPS information on its website under the following headings:

- Agency plan (s 8(2)(a))



- Who we are (ss 8(2)(b) and 8(2)(d)) – The organisation and structure of the ABC, the location of offices, governance arrangements, senior management team and statutory appointments referred to in s 8(2)(d)
- What we do (ss 8(2)(c) and 8(2)(j)) – A description of the functions and powers of the ABC and other operational information
- Our reports and responses to Parliament (ss 8(2)(e) and 8(2)(h)) – Annual reports laid before the Parliament and other information routinely provided to the Parliament
- Consultation arrangements (s 8(2)(f)) – consultation arrangements that enable members of the public to comment on specific policy proposals for which the agency is responsible
- Our priorities (s 8(4)) – the Corporate and Strategic plans of the ABC
- Our finances (s 8(4)) – Financial information relating to pay and grading structures in the ABC, procurement procedures, tendering and contracts
- Routinely requested information and disclosure log (ss 8(2)(g) and 11C) – Information to which the agency routinely gives access in response to FOI requests and the disclosure log of information that has been released under the FOI Act
- Contact us (s 8(2)(i)) – contact information for the officer who can be contacted about access to the ABC’s information under the FOI Act

## 6. Accessing the ABC’s IPS entry

The ABC will set up an IPS entry point in the ‘How the ABC is run’ section of the ABC’s corporate website. The information will be searchable, as far as possible. A search function is available on the ABC website.

To promote the ease of discovery, comprehensibility, and machine-readability of the ABC’s IPS entry, the ABC will:

- publish an icon on the homepage of its website, which will link to the IPS section of the website
- wherever possible, provide online content in a format that can be searched, copied and transformed
- continue to provide a search function for its website
- consider the provision of an alert service to notify subscribers about new publications within the IPS entry or other developments in relation to the ABC’s contribution to the IPS.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information holdings are ABC copyright. There may be some documents in the possession of the ABC which are required to be published under the IPS where a third party has intellectual property rights. In these circumstances, members of the public may need to seek permission of a third party copyright owner in order to re-use the material.

Where practicable, the ABC will seek to conform with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2) for each kind of document it enters into its IPS. Some of the items currently published on the ABC’s website are not currently available, and cannot readily be made available, in fully accessible formats (for example, scanned documents, charts and tables).



## 7. Voluntary publication of information

The ABC seeks to implement the objects of the FOI Act, which declare that information held by government is a national resource that should be managed for public purposes, and that the Parliament intends to increase scrutiny, discussion, comment and review of government activities. The ABC notes the 'Declaration of Open Government' issued in July 2010 which supports the establishment of a 'pro-disclosure' culture, making government information more accessible. The ABC is committed to publishing information, in addition to that provided as part of the ABC's IPS information, where it is relevant and appropriate to do so.

## 8. Feedback on the ABC's IPS entry

Feedback will be considered as part of the regular reviews of the IPS.

Members of the public can provide feedback on the ABC's IPS entry and compliance to the ABC's FOI coordinator by emailing [foi.abc@abc.net.au](mailto:foi.abc@abc.net.au) or:

### Post

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