

Introducing television to Australia, 1956

Introduction

Television was introduced into Australia in September 1956. Since then it has had a major impact on the lifestyles of all Australians. This introduction was controlled largely by government policy, and derived from the findings of the Royal Commission on Television.

The Royal Commission (1953–1954) was established to report on matters such as the number of national commercial television stations which could be effectively established and operated and the standards to be observed in programs to ensure the best use of television broadcasting in the public interest.

This fact sheet identifies records held by the National Archives that were created by agencies actively involved in introducing television into Australia.

Records relating to the introduction of television into Australia

Canberra – Royal Commission on Television (CA 2641)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Transcripts of proceedings – by sessions</u>	1953	CP357/1
<u>Transcripts of proceedings in chronological sequence</u>	1953	CP357/2
<u>Transcripts of proceedings, in camera</u>	1953	CP357/3
<u>Summaries of evidence on major issues</u>	1953	CP357/4
<u>Copies of exhibits (not including confidential exhibits)</u>	1953	CP357/5
<u>Exhibits – confidential</u>	1953	CP357/6
<u>Working papers – including drafts of report and printer's copies</u>	1953–54	CP357/9
<u>Files opened by the Commission</u>	1953–54	CP357/10

Canberra – Department of the Senate (CA691) and VS Vincent (CP196)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Personal papers mainly relating to Senate Select Committee on the encouragement of Australian productions for television</u>	1954–64	AA1980/216

Canberra – Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1951–55	A462
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1956–ongoing	A463

Canberra – Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Menzies and Holt Ministries – Cabinet files 'C'</u>	1949–67	A4940

Canberra – Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1929–ongoing	A432

Sydney – Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>General files and other records relating to external enquiries involving the ABC</u>	1932–ongoing	C1737
<u>Press cuttings and written publicity, general television and radio</u>	1938–68	SP1011/2
<u>Photographs – Miscellaneous personalities: TV, radio, stage, concert artists etc, including some publicity matter in regard to television</u>	1940–68	SP1011/1
<u>General correspondence files [Talks Department]</u>	1943–ongoing	C1979
<u>(A) General correspondence and policy files and (B) special subject files</u>	1949–54	SP341/1
<u>ABC audience research reports (radio and television)</u>	1950–70	SP1044/1
<u>Correspondence files relating to television</u>	1955–73	C1574
<u>Correspondence files re television programs</u>	1955–ongoing	C2218
<u>Correspondence – television</u>	1955–65	SP727/2
<u>Correspondence re television</u>	1955–63	SP724/2
<u>Correspondence re television programs</u>	1955–74	SP1299/2

Sydney – Bobby Limb (CP 504)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Program and script for the first television broadcast in Australia</u>	1956–ongoing	M2529

Melbourne – Royal Commission on Television (CA 2641)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Exhibits and transcripts of evidence</u>	1953–54	MP1228/3

Melbourne – Australian Broadcasting Control Board, Head Office (CA 124)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>General correspondence (TR/5/– relates to the Royal Commission on Television)</u>	1931–60	MP544/2
<u>Policy and general matters regarding broadcasting</u>	1949–70	MP1170/3
<u>Anderson Analysis Radio – surveys for all cities and country areas</u>	1944–63	MP634/1
<u>Booklets containing results of radio and television audience surveys (also known as McNair/Anderson reports)</u>	1949–77	B2591
<u>Policy and general in regards to television</u>	1949–70	MP1170/4
<u>Television inquiries – exhibits including applications</u>	1953–58	MP1228/4
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1956–82	B3430
<u>Anderson Analysis Television – surveys for all cities</u>	1957–63	MP634/2
<u>Television station files relating to technical, programming and licence aspects, which are of historical nature to Australian television media</u>	1955–70	B2152