

Press Release

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ANZ contributes increased profit to BBC Worldwide **2016/17 headline results**

BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) reported a 9.9% increase in headline profit this year despite challenging market conditions, according to BBC Worldwide's Annual Review for 2016/17.

With headline sales of £79.5m (0.5% up on 2015/16, £79.1m) and headline profit increased to £21.1m (9.9% up on 2015/16, £19.2m) after currency translation, the Australia and New Zealand territory contributed to the company's overall global headline sales of £1,059.9m (3% up on 2015/16, £1,029.4m), headline profit of £157.3m (up 17.6% on 2015/16, £133.8m) and cash returns to the BBC of £210.5m.

BBC Worldwide ANZ's solid results can be attributed to strength in its channels portfolio and growth in its ancillary businesses. In Australia, BBC First led a strongly performing channel portfolio, with *The Night Manager* as its strongest performing title to date, reinforcing its status as the home of premium British drama. BBC UKTV reaped the benefits of a brand refresh in October 2016, which saw its audience share lift by 12.3% on the previous quarter. Despite a challenging advertising market, the channels continued to deliver on quality and impact for their broadcasting partners.

This last year has seen new and returning format success, with *Stargazing Live* commissioned for the first time on ABC with UK presenter Brian Cox, and *Filthy Rich and Homeless* recently broadcasting on SBS. Returning format success includes *Coast Australia* broadcasting for a third series on the History Channel and series two of *The Great Australian Bake Off* on Lifestyle FOOD, achieving the channel's highest ratings of all time. In content sales, major Australian deals included the sale of *Planet Earth II* to Nine and a joint life-of-series deal for *Sherlock* on Stan and Nine.

Top of the Lake: China Girl completed filming in Sydney and is set to be a major title for BBC Worldwide in the year ahead, coming off the back of rave reviews at the Cannes Film Festival. It is produced by See-Saw Films for BBC Two in co-production with BBC First and Foxtel in Australia, BBC UKTV in New Zealand and SundanceTV in the US and in association with Hulu in the US, ARTE in France and BBC Worldwide.

BBC Worldwide ANZ had some sold out successes in live entertainment over the last year. Louis Theroux's inaugural live show was enjoyed by 26,500 fans across 11 shows in five Australian cities and Steve Backshall returned to Australia with *Deadly 60* which captivated 48,500 fans.

This year also saw the emerging popularity of pre-school titles *Hey Duggee* and *Go Jetters* on ABC and BBC CBeebies, which had a positive effect for licensed consumer products, with major retailers stocking product lines and 35,000 units of *Hey Duggee* toys sold.

Jon Penn, Managing Director of BBC Worldwide ANZ, said: 'Despite tough market challenges this year, the quality of our content and our channels has enabled BBC Worldwide ANZ to deliver a fourth year of profit growth. It's our ambition to further develop our commercial business areas in the year ahead.'

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About BBC Worldwide

BBC Worldwide is the main commercial arm and a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Its vision is to build the BBC's brands, audiences, commercial returns and reputation across the world. This is achieved through investing in, commercialising and showcasing content from the BBC around the world, in a way that is consistent with BBC standards and values. The business also champions British creativity globally.

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About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand

Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all its core business areas. Relocated to McMahons Point in 2015, BBC Worldwide ANZ wholly owns six channels: BBC First, UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge on Sky TV in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. BBC Worldwide ANZ distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to free-to-air, subscription channels and SVOD platforms in Australia and New Zealand. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, consumer products, entertainment formats and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned bbc.com news site.

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