

# PRESS RELEASE

## **BBC Worldwide ANZ reports continued growth in 2015/16**

BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) has announced another year of strong growth in 2015/16, with a 5.3% increase in headline sales in local currency.

Results from the UK financial year 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2016 saw BBC Worldwide ANZ return £79.1m in headline sales after currency translation (£81.9m in 2014/15) and £19.2m in headline profit (£16.3m in 2014/15). This contributed to global headline sales of £1,029.4m and global headline profit of £133.8m, with BBC Worldwide returning £222.2m to the BBC.

BBC Worldwide ANZ's continued growth is attributed to strength in established areas of the business and the nurturing of new commercial opportunities.

In its first full year, BBC First on Foxtel and Fetch TV sustained strong audiences, reaching over 3 million viewers and attracting a broader audience for its dramas including the locally commissioned and produced, *Banished*. BBC UKTV increased its reach in both Australia and New Zealand, while CBeebies in Australia doubled its audience ratings from the previous year. BBC channels in Australia have seen significant sponsorship growth as a result (19.9% increase in revenue year-on-year).

Content sales continued to deliver strongly, providing numerous windows for BBC Worldwide's programs across FTA, STV and digital video on demand. BBC Worldwide increased its offering in the digital arena in Australia and New Zealand to 17 platforms, from Presto and Stan to Lightbox and Sky Neon. In a first for premium BBC drama distribution in Australia, *Sherlock: The Abominable Bride*, BBC Worldwide's top-selling title globally for the year, premiered on SVOD service Stan.

BBC Worldwide ANZ's TV format business has been bolstered in the last year. Six new format commissions will be airing in 2016: *You're Back In The Room* for Nine and TVNZ; a first series of *Coast* and *Mastermind* for TVNZ; *Coast* on The History Channel; and *The Great Australian Bake Off* on Lifestyle FOOD.

The company has also extended its live entertainment offering, with Australia hosting its first official *Doctor Who* Festival, as well as YouTube stars Joe Sugg and Caspar Lee and wildlife presenter Steve Backshall presenting sell-out tours in Australia. Held in April in Melbourne, the BBC Proms Australia took place for the first time outside the UK.

Jon Penn, Managing Director of BBC Worldwide ANZ: "Our healthy growth has contributed to a positive global story for the company this year and can be attributed to strong established

partnerships, a proliferation of new ventures and the continued quality and breadth of our channel and content sales businesses in this region.”

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**Assets available:**

**Embeddable video link:** [https://youtu.be/INiPL\\_tyC80](https://youtu.be/INiPL_tyC80)

**Global press release** [here](#)

**Pictures available upon request.**

### **About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand**

Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) focuses on growth across all BBC Worldwide’s core business areas. Recently relocated to McMahons Point, 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](http://bbc.com) news site.