



1 February 2016

The Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

And by email: disruption@pc.gov.au

Disruptive technologies: What do governments need to do?

Standards Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Productivity Commission.

Standards Australia has a strong interest and role related to disruptive technologies and how they can be embraced by us, our members and stakeholders to add value to the Australian economy.

Innovation is at the core of our standards development work. As Australia's member of two leading international standards development bodies ISO and IEC, and as Australia's national standards body, our contributors, staff project and international counterparts are working hard across many new and emerging areas.

In Australia and around the world, disruption has been a constant for generations. What has now changed is the pace and the type of disruption that is being seen across our economy, and the world economy.

Standards are an enabler of disruptive change in many areas. Our work leading an APEC project to develop a 'standards roadmap' for cross border data flows as part of the wider APEC *Digital Economy Action Plan* is a current example of our leadership in this sector.

Our work in the area of digital hospitals is another example. Working in partnership with the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and other key stakeholders we are developing a set of principles and recommendations to inform the design and implementation of a 'digital hospital'.

There are many other examples which we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you through the course of your project.

Turning then to the objectives of the study, our view is that disruption of any system, protocol or alliance is neither inherently good nor bad but rather a potential change that should be reviewed from a neutral starting point.

Standards Australia believes that government should:

- Be proactive in working with industries, community interests and third sector partners;
- Be open to changes to policy settings and structures to enable change;
- Approach potential change from disruption through a best practice regulatory lens;
- Engage and consult with Australian industry to allow for opportunities to be embraced in all sectors;
- Adopt international practices where we can when looking at disruptive change.

Standards Australia believes that with a simple set of principles and an openness to new ways of operating, substantial benefits can flow from the pace of change that we are seeing across the world.

We look forward to further discussions with you as your work continues. Please do not hesitate to contact Adam Stingemore, General Manager Stakeholder Engagement and Public Affairs

Yours sincerely,

Dr Bronwyn Evans
Chief Executive Officer