

Submission to Senate Inquiry: Recent ABC programming decisions.

I am writing in support of the broadcasting of Western Australia Football League matches by the ABC. This service has a long history in Western Australia and provides an extremely important benefit to community clubs, and the sport. As a result of regular ABC coverage, clubs are able to attract a greater amount of sponsorship, as well as attract members and players. The WAFL clubs are the strength behind the sport in WA and are run on a non-profit basis. As a junior football coach I am in a position to see the immense benefits of organised sport to young people. I am also able to see the vital role played by WAFL clubs in providing the support, infrastructure and resources that community and junior football requires. Only recently, the Claremont Football Club provided a ground, change-rooms, umpires and officials, for a semi-final of the Smarter than Smoking Cup – a state-wide school football competition – in which I was involved as a coach. I cannot see how this could have been done if the club was to lose sponsorship, membership or both.

I believe, therefore, that the ABC coverage has a huge community impact and should be retained.

Anthony Lunt

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