

Submission to Senate Inquiry into recent ABC program decisions

I expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. I want:

1. the ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
2. the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
3. a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, **not ratings**

Already the ABC has closed its highly-regarded Natural History Unit, thus losing important expertise in this important field. It has outsourced all TV documentary and drama, and now plans to sack program-makers and outsource more television production to the private sector.

The ABC has cancelled *The New Inventors*, *The Collectors* and *Art Nation*.

These programs advocate innovation, cultural cohesion and artistic practice. They will not be offered by commercial operators whose focus on ratings is paramount.

I ask the Senate Inquiry to ensure that these programs are reinstated and that the ABC does not make further cuts in its science, arts, education and technology programmes. The ABC charter calls for **innovative and comprehensive broadcasting services of a high standard**. The decisions that have been made are in breach of the charter.

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9 September 2011