

While it is important to accept that ABC TV programs with declining ratings should be replaced with programs that may potentially have broader appeal, this shouldn't be at the expense of niche programming, which is part of the ABC's role. Some programs will always have a small audience – programs about the arts often do. Ballet, for example. Some sports of lesser popularity should also have their chance on-screen. It is important to reflect all of Australia's artistic/cultural/sporting achievements, and this shouldn't be lost in a chase of ratings.

Also, a trend at the ABC seems to be to outsource more and more TV programming. This makes sense at first – remove the 9-5 staff, and save money employing freelancers only for the run of a given program. But once a TV program is successful, the cost of the externally-made program will increase year to year. It would be interesting to see an audit comparing the cost of a multi-season program if its production had begun/remained in-house, rather than being outsourced.

Equally important are ABC employees getting the opportunity to launch ideas for programs. It's known you have to get the support of an outside producer before pitching a given program idea. ABC TV management should have more of an open door policy, allowing ideas to grow from within the ABC's own ranks. There is a lot of creativity and skill to tap.

The ABC has had a fine track record in launching new and innovative programs. The ABC should remain the bastion of trying new ideas, be fearless in attempting new material, and capitalise on the expertise within its own staff, avoiding making them redundant and relying on outside producers.