

Inquiry into recent ABC programming decisions

Terms of reference:

(a) the implications of this decision on the ABC's ability to create, produce and own its television content, particularly in the capital cities of Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart;

No Response

(b) the implications of this decision on Australian film and television production in general and potential impact on quality and diversity of programs;

Response: While the ABC has an obligation to be culturally sensitive and reflect all aspects of our society I believe it also has a role in preserving those things which are part of Australia's cultural heritage and its current culture. With the majority of programming on the commercial channels being either produced in the US or based on US cultural values it is important the ABC helps maintain our culture. This is not to say we should not reflect our culture as it changes but we should also be mindful of those things which have been important in this country's journey to where it is today. The ABC provides an oasis of Australian content in what is otherwise an US centric TV industry.

(c) whether a reduction in ABC-produced programs is contrary to the aims of the National Regional Program Initiative;

No response

(d) the implications of these cuts on content ownership and intellectual property;

No Response

(e) the impact of the ABC's decision to end internal production of Bananas in Pyjamas and to outsource the making of a 'Bananas in Pyjamas' animation series to Southern Star Endemol Proprietary Limited; and

No Response

(f) the future potential implications of these cuts on ABC television's capacity to broadcast state league football and rugby; and

The broadcasting of state level league football and rugby is extremely important to the areas which are served. This is particularly important in Western Australia where many of the best players from country football leagues play in the WAFL. The weekly broadcast of the WAFL is the best way for many regional viewers to see their local stars in action. The WAFL has a rich history and tradition in WA and many of its most ardent supporters are now getting on in years and can no longer get to games themselves, the ABC broadcast gives them the opportunity to watch league level football of the teams they grew up with.

(g) any other related matters.

No Response