

The ABC needs to consider the dearth of arts programming on other channels and not move towards populist programming. The ABC is not going to move people from commercial television and should continue to provide that point of difference.

The diversity of programming on the ABC is enhanced by quality in-house art production and provides a necessary service to the arts community. Removing in-house arts programming makes the ABC much less relevant and indeed is likely to draw more audience share to commercial networks as a result.

I can remember as a child watching arts programs and discussions on lazy Sunday afternoons with my parents and would hope that I can enrich my children's lives with the sort of arts programs I grew up with, cherish and love.

In these days of the thirty second sound bite, it is refreshing to think that there would still be a place for the arts on our ABC. I urge the government to enshrine in the ABC charter an allocation of locally made arts programming in order to ensure that future generations can enjoy the currently high quality in house arts programs that the ABC produces.