

Submission for the inquiry on 'recent ABC programming decisions':

As a Program Maker (TV, Post Production) at the ABC, I am in a unique position to declare to this Senate Inquiry on 'Recent ABC programming decisions', that changes implemented by ABC management, and more specifically the Director of Television, Kim Dalton, have not only lowered the quality of internally produced television but through a strategy of de-tooling and de-skilling, destroyed the immediate ability of the national broadcaster to contribute a valuable television service from beginning to end.

In late 2008, 35 people employed in TV production were forced into redundancy and it has been a continuing trend. The ABC has dismantled entire departments, auctioned useful equipment and made valuable staff redundant.

The ABC is engaged in a constant and planned erosion of specialist crafts which has resulted in the inability to perform critical broadcasting roles and termination of in-house productions such as Art Nation and The New Inventors further reveal a lack of commitment to in-house production, will local sport be next?

I believe the Government must urgently commission an independent study into the recent decisions by the ABC to further outsource ABC TV programming and insist that internal production be maintained to comply with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983.

Sincerely,

Doug Tapfield