

Senate Enquiry

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am profoundly disappointed at recent changes and forecast changes at the ABC.

The ABC should not be out-sourcing production of television programmes, as this leads to lower standards and more populist material. The ABC should be innovative itself, and not rely on outsourced material, as this will be produced with an eye to on-sales to pay-TV, and so be of lower quality than expected from the national broadcaster. In particular, the recent introduction of much American material has led to a noticeable decline in standards of television programmes!

The national broadcaster should be adequately funded so that it can fulfil its charter and aim for the highest quality programmes produced in-house, and not be driven by ratings. Its coverage should provide for wide variety, and the removal of its only TV arts magazine programme is a disgrace to an organization which claims to be comprehensive and creative.

The threatened removal of TV and radio programmes with any serious intellectual content is most disturbing. I instance "In the National Interest" and "The Innovators" as examples, as there are no comparable programmes in the commercial media, and endless soapies are beneath the dignity if what many of us expect from our ABC.

I am also most concerned that the loss of specialist production units will lead to an even greater concentration of Sydney material, and the disappearance of programmes made in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. The National broadcaster should indeed be National, and aim to be fully independent, creative, and innovative, catering for ALL Australians, and not be driven to the bottom by focusing on ratings!

Yours sincerely,

Anne Levy