

Subject: Programs to be cut by the ABC
Date: Thursday, 8 September 2011

Dear Senate Committee

I came to Australia some 30 years ago from Kenya where the television viewing was limited to very few programs. Most of the programs in English were from America or Britain - 'Bewitched', 'Little House on the Prairie', 'Mind Your Language' and I remember a spoof on Henry VIII and his wives, so it was not exactly highbrow viewing.

When I came to Australia I was really pleased to see such different programs (and all in English!) and a mix of factual and entertainment programs. Since then I have married, had children and am now old enough to have a Seniors Card and the channels I watch all the time are the ABC and SBS. There have been wonderful programs produced by the ABC - something Australians should be very proud of.

I am so sorry to learn that 'Arts Nation', 'Collectors' and 'The New Inventors' are to be axed - these are my favourite shows and at least get me for a short time away from the relentless commercialism that pervades our lives. These three programs show us that there is a strange and exciting and creative world out there that is not just after hard lucre but can enrich our lives. If you ask anyone, I don't think their best moments are to do with making money but the human and the strange and the high moments of happiness that have to do with connection with other people and creativity.

Get rid of the 24 hour news channel - I don't think that has been a success (generally the main news bulletins, 'Lateline' and 'Foreign Correspondent' are more than enough - failing that then SBS and online sources!). Keep 'Arts Nation', 'Collectors' and 'The New Inventors' - if not we are dumbing down the nation which needs all the lifting up it can get.

Yours sincerely

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