

ABC Staff cutbacks

Dear Sirs,

I was a former full time employee of ABC TV in Tasmania. Since leaving the organisation there have been significant changes to the ABC program Australian produced output resulting in a greater emphasis on producing News and related programs. For example, the increased cost of running ABC 4 24 hours 7 days a week broadly using expensive resources like satellite services, grand looking sets and increased use of in front of camera journalists, e.g. two presenters on 7:30 where until early this year there was one. The ABC has developed online services that in many cases lead the way in cyber space.

The ABC has been very diligent and successful for many years broadcasting many radio and tv channels and providing balance in relation to the ABC charter and choice for viewers and listeners across Australia and Asia

It is becoming obvious that financial resources have been over stretched and funding reduced or removed from arts, entertainment, information programs, e.g. New Inventors, Collectors and now there is the possibility that local sport Outside Broadcast funding will be removed completely after some years of ongoing financial and staff cutbacks to cripple the quality and sustainability of these programs and OB resources.

OB facilities are used for a myriad of productions: funeral services for e.g. former PMs, Election coverage, national and state, Yachting, Orchestral, sport (3 football codes, netball, basketball, rowing, athletics, Olympic and Commonwealth games, golf, motor racing, horse racing, etc. etc.) church services and other community, both national and local to name just a few of the variety of productions in which ABC TV has been involved.

ABC has for many years struggled to keep Outside Broadcasts running with constantly validating the existence of OBs since the late 80s when OBs were the one of the first operational departments to accurately forecast budgets throughout each year and accurately quote on all internal and external productions that provided improved professional skills and income to the ABC.

Without regular weekend sport OBs, in some states, facilities could quietly disappear and so would all the other productions, particularly in the smaller states, and even more valuable multiskilled staff.

News programs will continue unabated and the ABC will, in my opinion, continue to decline as the only independent program maker nationally.

Sincerely
Chris Reeve