

TO: The Senate Inquiry

We are loyal (for decades) and upset (because of the changes that are being made) ABC watcher.

We expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. We want:

- * The ABC to be less dependent on outsourced programming
- * The ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialist units to produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio, TV and online
- * A public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings.

We are upset that:

- * Having already closed its acclaimed Natural History Unit and outsourced all TV documentary and drama, the ABC now plans to sack program-makers and outsource more television production to the private sector.
- * ABC management plans to axe "The New Inventors" and "Collectors". It will axe "Art Nation" (its only TV arts magazine program) and disband its TV arts unit. This act of cultural vandalism will also seriously diminish the ABC's role as an archivist of important Australian artistic achievements.
- * The ABC plans to close TV production units altogether in some states.
- * Australia's public broadcaster is being transformed into a platform for programs that are made by the same companies that make commercial television content, and with an eye to commercial sales after first screening on the ABC. The community is rapidly losing the ABC as the innovator and producer of diverse programs of cultural value and intellectual integrity that it is meant to be.
- * Radio Arts: Changes that will reduce Radio National arts programming by almost one-sixth are also being considered at this time.

Sincerely,

Ann and Frank Albrecht