

Submission regarding the ABC

I crave leave to request the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications to facilitate an increase to the funding of my ABC.

I want my public broadcaster to be the source of good quality programming – purchased and locally made – which is informative and not subject to the vagaries of commercialism.

Over the years the ABC has been the basis for a lot of my general knowledge and when my children were young it was a very sound beginning for their education. I do not see the same quality now, when watching with my nephews, as I did 23 years ago. Certainly there are a lot more programs available, but not of the same quality of content.

Australia is such a wonderful country and we should fund and celebrate our uniqueness in this world. We should not be buying the majority of our public broadcaster content from other countries or from producers who are only interested in profit over quality and integrity. We should be funding programs such as the one Paul Lockyer and his team were working on when they crashed near Lake Eyre. More Australian Story types of programs for instance.

As a nation we need to be able to educate and inspire our people and the type of content on the commercial stations is generally not meeting that need.

Our Public Broadcaster should be for all the people of our nation and not just the most vocal, or the most visible. We need to celebrate, and educate about, the origins and diversity of our citizens and do as much as possible to bring rational, clear thinking and moderate debate to the people and hopefully to the rest of the world. We need a broadcaster who can calm the storms created by the likes of John Laws and Alan Jones, by being rational and reasonable.

Again I ask, in fact beg, you to do all you can to strengthen the ABC and in particular its Australian-ness.

Kind regards
Sandy Buck