

**SUBMISSION TO SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

page 1 of 1

Concerning: RECENT ABC PROGRAMMING DECISIONS

Submitted by: **Jacqueline Nance Loney**

I wish to submit that:

- 1. The ABC Charter specifies that it is to be focussed on diversity and quality, providing information and entertainment that is not aimed specifically at being commercially viable, but that fills the gaps left by commercial providers; therefore by definition the public broadcaster should not compete with commercial broadcasters for ratings;**
- 2. in order to fulfil the above requirement, the ABC must be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas, with the additional advantage of broadening scope of the whole industry;**
- 3. this necessitates in-house production by the ABC and also requires that the ABC has minimum dependence on the purchase of outsourced programming, as by definition, outsourced programs cannot be narrowly designed to meet public broadcasting standards; and**
- 4. that in order to achieve these aims, the ABC must be funded and rebuilt so that it can re-instate/develop strong specialist units in all program genres that can produce high levels of high quality and genuinely local in-house programming on radio, television and online.**

The ABC is an integral part of Australian life with approx 75% of Australians using one or more of its services at least once per week. It provides unique children's programming and has been a key part of the Australian education system from its inception almost 80 years ago. Many rural and regional Australians are entirely dependent on the ABC to provide key information for all aspects of their lives – work, entertainment, safety and for a sense of inclusion in the wider Australian community. It also provides the “social glue” that holds together our far-flung cities by providing national services in many fields. It must not be reduced to merely another player as purchaser of outsourced programs because of restricted budgets. I trust your committee will ensure that it continues to fulfil this important role.

Signed: J N Loney.